

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
April 25, 1932

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed April 18, 1932

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

CHINA'S GREAT FLOOD

Details concerning the ruinous floods of last year in the Yangtze Valley have gradually come to hand and the disaster now takes its place as one of the greatest of its kind in history. The rise of the waters is ascribed to three great rainstorms occurring July 7-10, July 22-26 and August 3-7. The run-off from the third storm brought the water level at Hankow up to 53.6 feet on the river gauge; the previous highest reading having been 50.5 feet in August, 1870.

According to a report by J. Lossing Buck, of the University of Nanking, the farm population affected by the floods is approximately equal to the entire farm population of the United States. Forty-five per cent. of all farm buildings in the flooded area were destroyed and forty per cent. of the people were forced to migrate for the greater part of the winter season. The maximum depth of water on the fields was 9 feet. The total loss in crops, stores, animals, buildings, implements and personal property is estimated at about two billion Chinese dollars, exclusive of losses from broken dikes, road damage and the impossibility of planting second crops of rice and winter crops. The average loss per family is \$451 in Chinese currency (as compared with average net earnings per family of about \$300 a year).

The early estimate of a million lives lost in these floods was probably much exaggerated, but no trustworthy figures on this subject appear to be available.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE
21st and Constitution Ave.
Washington, D. C.