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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed March 15, 1933

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A RAIN-MAKING EPISODE

The late Charles W. Post, Michigan breakfast-food manufacturer, was an enthusiastic believer in the efficacy of explosives as a means of producing rain. Besides ~~writing~~ a good deal on the subject, he staged some spectacular experiments in Texas and Michigan, in 1911 and 1912, in which many thousand pounds of dynamite were set off. Showers occurred in conjunction with some of these attempts, but they were not confined to the localities of the explosions and had, moreover, been duly forecast by the Weather Bureau.

Early in 1912 Post was in southern California during the prevalence of a severe drought. He offered to provide funds for the purpose of explosives and a meeting was called at Santa Barbara to formulate plans for rain-making efforts. While the matter was under discussion, rain began. It was the first shower in 30 days, and it had been duly predicted by the Weather Bureau.

The episode is interesting because if Post's suggestion had been put into effect a little sooner, before the beginning of the rain, the showers would have been attributed to the explosions and this method of trying to regulate the weather would have had a decided "boost."

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