

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
August 19, 1933

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed August 12, 1933

HEAVY DUSTFALLS

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

The amounts of dust that shower down from the sky are sometimes enormous; particularly so when the deposit of the solid material is accelerated by the falling of rain. Some examples are mentioned by Mr. I. E. Houk in a recent magazine article:

The yellow fog of March^{4,} 1915, in Japan, left a deposit a quarter of an inch deep. A mud rain in southern France, in 1846, left a deposit so thick that the people had to disconnect their downspouts and clean their roof gutters. In the European dustfall of March, 1901, measurements at Taormina, Sicily, by Professor A. W. Rücker, indicated a deposition of about seven tons of material per square mile. Since the storm covered a total land area of about three hundred thousand square miles, the total quantity deposited on the land alone must have been about two million tons, or approximately fifty-six million cubic feet, enough to cover two average sized city blocks to a depth of three hundred feet. In the American dust storm of March 9, 1918, measurements at Madison, Wisconsin, indicated a deposition of about 13.5 tons per square mile, approximately twice the quantity deposited per square mile in the European storm of March 1901.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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