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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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RAINY TROPICAL CYCLONES

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Apropos of the torrential rains that attend tropical cyclones, both in the tropics and during their subsequent travels in higher latitudes, perhaps the most disastrous cloudburst on record was the one that occurred in the Kii Peninsula of southern Japan on August 10, 1889, during the passage of a typhoon -- i.e., a tropical cyclone of the Far East. The resulting flood drowned 1,500 people and caused immense destruction of property, entailing, it is said, the ruin of fully 400,000 people.

A typhoon also brought the heaviest 24-hour rainfall ever measured when, on July 14-15, 1911, 46 inches of water fell from noon to noon at Baguio, the summer capital of the Philippines, starting huge landslides that buried portions of the famous Benguet Road. A second typhoon deluge not long afterward washed away most of the debris deposited by the first, reducing the cost of restoring the road to its normal condition by an amount estimated at \$250,000.

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