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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed September 13, 1933

DUST STORM GEOGRAPHY

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Dust storms assume a variety of forms and are known under various names in different parts of the world. The Palouse region of northern Idaho, together with a large adjacent area of the northwestern United States, is the home of the Palouser. The dust carried by Palousers sifts into houses through every crevice and, when accompanied by rain, besmirches windowpanes with red mud.

The habubs of the Sudan blow up probably the most spectacular clouds of sand to be seen anywhere on earth. The town of Khartoum is blotted out of view by these storms about twenty times a year, on an average.

The small whirling dust devils of the Indian plains are often seen in great numbers. Some travel swiftly; others remain almost stationary except for their rapid rotation.

The twisters of the southwestern United States are similar whirls of dust, while the sand-augers of Death Valley, the slender stems of which sometimes tower thousands of feet aloft, are perhaps the most striking of all such whirlwinds.

The simoom of Asian and African deserts is usually but not always a sand-storm or dust storm. Its deadly effects, often described as a kind of suffocation, are due to its excessive heat and dryness.

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