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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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FLOODS DUE TO GLACIERS

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The great flood that recently caused some five million dollars' worth of damage and took more than a score of human lives along the Mendoza River, in western Argentina, is said to have resulted from the fact that the Tupungato River, an affluent of the Mendoza, was dammed for several hours by an enormous mass of ice that broke off a glacier. Disasters of this character have frequently occurred in other parts of the world; especially in the Alps and the Himalayas. In some cases a glacier gradually advances across a stream, impounding its waters and forming a temporary lake, which eventually bursts its wall and discharges the water. In other cases, as in that just mentioned, the damming is due to the fall of ice from a glacier.

Some of the most spectacular glacier floods in the Alps have occurred in the Val de Bagnes, through which flows the River Drance; the most remarkable cases having been in 1595, 1818 and 1898. Since the last of these disasters, in which more than a million cubic feet of water was suddenly released, siphoning trenches have been constructed and other engineering measures have been taken to prevent dangerous accumulations of water in this Swiss valley.

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