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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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AN ARIZONA SANDSTORM

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Authority on Meteorology.

The great dust storms that have been so prevalent during the past year or so in the eastern United States and Canada are quite different affairs from the local sandstorms of the southwestern deserts. A typical sandstorm of southern Arizona is thus described by Clyde P. Ross, of the U.S. Geological Survey:

"The storm came from the southeast and was preceded by showers of rain in the mountains bordering the plain. Before, during, and after the coming of the sand sharp claps of thunder in the southeast were heard. The first bodies of flying sand to be seen were long, thin pillars, reaching far up into the sky and resembling waterspouts on the ocean in shape and general appearance but moving with much greater velocity. These were followed by hurrying, fluttering, billowing clouds of sand, which were large but thin, so that the quantity of sand they transported was not great. Behind these thin clouds was the main mass, advancing in a series of dense waves of fine sand. When the sand waves struck the mountains to the right they were shattered, and the 'spray' of sand whirled up as high as the summits of the foothills, much like hurricane-driven water striking a similar obstacle. In ten or fifteen minutes from the coming of the first sand most of it had passed. The wind remained high for a time, and small clouds of sand were scattered about. During the height of the storm it was impossible to travel, because the dense clouds of sand prevented the use of the eyes. Sand penetrated even into underclothing and filled the hair and every wrinkle in the skin not well protected by clothing, causing mild discomfort, but there was almost no cutting or burning of the skin."

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