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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A WET SEPTEMBER

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The fact that the rainfall of last September in the District of Columbia was the heaviest ever recorded in that locality during a single month since the beginning of regular weather observations has prompted an inquiry as to the total weight of the water that fell in the District during that period and the length of time it would supply the water requirements of the District. The Weather Bureau furnishes the following information on the subject:

The rainfall at the Weather Bureau for this month was 17.45 inches. Now, a one-inch rain gives approximately 113 tons of water per acre. There are 640 acres per square mile and 70 square miles in the District of Columbia. Therefore, if the precipitation was the same everywhere in the District as at the Weather Bureau, or equivalent thereto, the total precipitation in September, 1934, over the District of Columbia, was roughly 88,338,380 tons.

Also, a gallon of water weighs approximately 8 1/3 pounds, and the District uses about 86,000,000 gallons per day. Hence the rainfall over the District of Columbia in September, 1934, was equal to the amount of water used in the District in the course of about 246 days, or, say, eight months.

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