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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed Nov. 2, 1934

MANITOBA BLIZZARDS

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman
Authority on Meteorology

Dr. C. E. Koeppe, in his book "The Canadian Climate," quotes descriptions of two blizzards in southern Manitoba written by a resident, H. Hassart. In one of these storms: "The wind rose to probably 50 miles an hour, the mercury falling in reverse ratio to about 10 degrees. In two hours there was pandemonium. Great plates of ice 10 to 20 feet square would be lifted and, in falling again, would break to smaller pieces which in turn would be raised on edge and blown along the prairies like so many cartwheels of large and small sizes. The prairie looked as if it were alive--demons on a rampage. The loose snow was lifted and carried through the air as though a heavy shower of snow were falling. A blinding blizzard developed, with those icy cartwheels for good measure, travelling in every direction except in that from which the wind was blowing."

In another case: "The snow, being loose and fluffy, was piled in great waves, 10 to 20 feet high--just like ocean waves. They were miles in length, of varying distances apart, and ran somewhat west-east; bare prairie lay between. Travelling was almost impossible. Be the wind ever so moderate, it will move the freshly fallen snow; and as the snow is moved, it compacts. The higher the wind the more compact the snow becomes. It is driven along the surface like so much fine sand; and when the wind is high enough, the snow is lifted into the air, resulting in a 'blizzard', although no snow is actually falling. The sky becomes entirely invisible and, to the less observant, the belief is that it is a real snowstorm."

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