

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
March 5, 1935

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed Feb. 26, 1935

THE "WINDY CITY"

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman  
Authority on Meteorology.

The Associated Press has just published figures assembled in Chicago to show that several cities of the United States had more windy weather last year than the one popularly known as the Windy City, with Buffalo leading the list. A bulletin on the same subject broadcast a year ago showed New York City and Buffalo tied as the windiest cities, each of them had a far greater frequency of strong winds than the Illinois metropolis.

But Chicago did not acquire its well-known nickname on the basis of weather statistics. It was called the Windy City by derisive easterners at the time it was battling with New York and other cities for the privilege of staging the Columbian Exposition of 1893, and the word "windy" was probably meant to be metaphorical. "Don't pay any attention," wrote Charles A. Dana in the New York Sun, "to the nonsensical claims of that windy city." I do not know whether Dana's remark gave currency to the nickname. A speech by Senator Vest on the question of the place where the fair ought to be held, printed in the Congressional Record of April 21, 1890, refers to Chicago as "a 'Windy City' on the west shore of a lake which all know to be flat and low."

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE  
2101 Constitution Ave.  
Washington, D. C.