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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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DROUGHT AND POPULATION

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

A little-recognized factor in the drought problem has been pointed out by Dr. C. F. Brooks, who writes: "Increasing population means an increasing drain on ground water; therefore, droughts are likely to become progressively worse. More people means more ground water pumped up and allowed to run off through sewers into rivers; also increased population means more water taken from the surface for crop production. In over-populated countries like China and India droughts and their famines become national calamities. The pressure of population on water supply is seldom felt in the eastern United States, but in arid regions of the West the problem is an acute one."

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