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A high air mass! Air masses can not, of course, be recognized by the layman, but the weather forecaster identifies them by their temperature and humidity characteristics. He also must take them into account in predicting the weather. They are defined as bodies of air which are approximately homogeneous horizontally; that is, dividing the whole mass into horizontal layers, it has been found that the temperature and humidity are alike throughout each layer. The stratosphere, then, is definitely an "air mass," but a high-level one. It seems to have no vertical currents and therefore retains its layer-cake formation forever, whereas the surface air masses are comparatively short-lived.
