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Rising air cools! Everyone has noticed how cool the air is when let out of an over-inflated automobile tire. Air cools as it expands; all gases do. This same action produces the beautiful cumulus clouds, which are the very large white heaps of cloud masses with flat bases. Masses of air, warmed by the ground, are pushed upward by the heavier, cooler air, and upon rising expand and cool. When the temperature of a rising air mass falls to the dewpoint, cloud droplets are formed immediately. This is at a definite height over a local area, which accounts for the flat bases of these beautiful clouds very noticeable on warm summer days.
