

For Release  
Nov. 12, 1938

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Stability of the atmosphere! The air is never stable, never quiet for any length of time. Air over the poles, especially in winter, becomes colder and colder, hence denser, flowing equatorward. That over the equator becomes warmer and warmer, hence lighter, rises and flows toward both poles. Due to these effects and to local heating and cooling, the air within about 10 miles of the surface is always rearranging itself. It does this by either flowing horizontally away, this is called "wind"; or by rising or falling, which phenomena are called "convection currents." The latter as well as the former often attain great speed.

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