

For Release
Feb. 8, 1939

By Major A. H. Thiessen
Science Service Meteorologist

Rime! This is a winter phenomenon of some importance since it contributes some moisture to the run-off of rivers. It is a deposit of white, rough ice which grows out on the windward side of exposed objects. It forms when supercooled drops of water, that is, water below 32 degrees, of which fog is composed, freeze upon coming in contact with solid objects. As wind velocity is the principal factor, rime forms at different rates, depending upon exposure and shape of the objects, which include wings of airplanes. Mountains are the best collectors of rime. It has been studied a good deal on Mt. Washington, where a wing of an airplane was exposed collecting rime at the rate of one inch in 2.3 hours.
