

For release By Major A.H. Thiessen
Oct. 14, 1939 Science Service Meteorologist

Earth's early atmosphere! When the earth was pulled away from the sun many million years ago, there came along with it all the elements which now compose the atmosphere, but not in the same proportion or form as are now found. The early atmosphere was composed largely of carbon dioxide and water vapor, with some nitrogen and very little oxygen. The atmosphere, as we now know it, was gradually formed by changes in the early atmosphere supplemented by products from volcanoes and geysers and by other gases expelled from the earth. Oxygen was freed from carbon dioxide by the action of plants, and decomposition of compounds composing the earth's crust was always going on, supplying all the gases that are now found in the present atmosphere.
