

For release By Major A.H. Thiessen
Jan. 22, 1940 Science Service Meteorologist

Cold air and water vapor! Water vapor, whence comes rain and snow, forms a part of the atmosphere in varying amounts everywhere from the surface of the earth to the stratosphere, where it may exist in minute quantities. The actual amount of water vapor decreases rapidly with altitude. The quantity in one cubic foot of space when saturated varies from 8.5 grains at 72 degrees to less than one-half grain at zero. By saturation is meant all the vapor that can exist, and the amount varies with the temperature as indicated above. Thus it is seen that the heaviest snows can not occur at low temperatures. This accounts for the small snowfall in the polar regions and in the coldest weather.
