

For release By Major A.H. Thiessen
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Rising and descending air! It is well known that rains which fall abundantly are brought about by rising air which cools by expansion. On the other hand, descending air is compressed and is warmed for the same reason that a bicycle pump is warmed when it is compressing air. When air is warmed, its capacity for moisture is increased, or in other words, it is a drying agent. Lands where air descends suffer not only from scanty rainfall but also from the air drying the soil. When mountain ranges run north and south, dry regions are often found on their lee, as in regions east of the Rockies in both United States and Canada.
