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Large and scanty rainfalls! These are not a matter of chance but are the result of certain natural conditions. Conditions bound to result in heavy rainfall are: (1) rain-bearing winds blow from an ocean, (2) from a warmer to a cooler latitude, and (3) toward a high mountain range. These conditions are realized on the western coast of North America from Oregon northward, because the winds from the ocean are apt to be nearly saturated when they reach higher latitudes, and at the dewpoint when blown up the side of the mountain range. As the air deposits most of its moisture on the windward slopes, the land to the leeward is usually one of scanty rainfall.
