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Visibility! This depends upon not only the quantity of dust and fog particles but also on whether the air is stratified or not, which may make distant objects shimmer. Visibility is therefore an index of the kind of air about and above us. Dense surface air, being stable, clings to the earth with its dust content and may result in poor visibility. If the temperature falls slowly with elevation, making vertical motion easily possible, the air is clear, due to the rising air taking the smoke and dust with it. Therefore, with poor visibility one might infer that surface air is dense and upper air light; with good visibility, the inference is that the temperature changes slowly with elevation.
