

showing 127 miles an hour was made during a typhoon at Hongkong in 1923.

Even in the British Isles, where weather is not often violent, winds up to slightly over 100 miles per hour have been recorded. On Mt. Washington, velocities of 180 to 186 miles per hour were noted four times from 1876 to 1883. Even if we deduct 25 per cent for the instrumental indications being in excess of linear velocities, the speed of air motion must have been prodigious.

But winds stronger than these occur, and their velocities can be estimated from the weight of objects whirled up or other damage done. In tornadoes, when furniture, cattle and vehicles are tossed about, and even steel bridges moved, wind velocities reach 200 to 400 miles per hour, or possibly more.

The outblowing winds from portions of Antarctica are the strongest enduring winds known. In this "home of the blizzard" the average velocity for a year was 50 miles an hour, and 24-hour averages of 90 or more miles an hour were experienced, while some gusts of this frigid blast "doubtless approached two hundred miles an hour."

NOTES ON WEATHER AND BUSINESS IN LATIN AMERICA

(Excerpts from weekly Commerce Reports)

Argentina (Cable Oct. 23) The general condition of all crops is good and a feeling of optimism prevails with regard to harvest returns according to the official Argentine crop report; the wheat crop is considered generally satisfactory; the flax crop (for linseed) is reported to be exceptionally large; and the new corn sproutings are reported vigorous. Pasturage and cattle conditions are excellent. The second official estimate of the area planted to all cereals except corn indicates a 2 per cent increase over 1925.

(Cable Nov. 6) The prospect of good crops in Argentina remains excellent.

(Cable Nov. 13) It is reported that approximately one-half of the grape crop in Mendoza Province has been destroyed by untimely frost. The bulk of the fruit affected was, however, of the wine variety and not the export grade for table use. The prospect for good crops of all grains during the coming season remains excellent. Estimates from unofficial sources place the next wheat crop total at 223,000,000 bushels, as compared with 191,139,000 bushels for the last crop.

British Guiana (Cable Oct. 21) The rice crop is below expectations on account of the very hot dry weather. . . . The unusual dry spell that the country experienced during the past year has been reflected in the very limited purchasing power of the people and the high cost of food-stuffs which resulted in general dissatisfaction among the populace.

Chile (Cable Oct. 25) Excellent spring weather is favoring crops throughout the agricultural regions and early reports are that the area sown to wheat is the same as last year with 10 per cent increases in the areas planted with barley and oats.

Colombia (Cable Nov. 8) The condition of the upper and lower Magdalena is good and navigation continues without interruption. Ordinarily when the Magdalena River becomes navigable after a dry spell, freight movement returns rapidly to normal; however, the freight congestion this year resulting from the prolonged drought has been so acute that the usually well regulated traffic control has been upset and this is seriously interfering with the maximum utilization of the present high water.

(Cable Nov. 15) Navigation on the Magdalena River continues without interruption. Barranquilla still has thousands of tons of freight

awaiting shipment up the river and every possible effort is being made to relieve the congested situation while the river is in good condition and before the beginning of the next dry season. While conditions are improving along the Magdalena, freight congestion at the Pacific port of Buenaventura is becoming alarming, as boats arriving at that port find it necessary to wait indefinitely for an opportunity to discharge their cargoes.

Honduras (Cable Nov. 14) Banana shipments from Honduras for October show a marked decrease as compared with the same period of last year. Losses from wind storms in the late spring, reported to be as high as 5,000,000 stems, and damage done by locusts have greatly reduced the output this year. The coming coffee crop in southern Honduras has been seriously affected by adverse weather conditions and will probably be considerably under that of last year.

Mexico (Published Nov. 15) The first project to be carried out in connection with the vast irrigation program of the Mexican Government, from present indications, will be undertaken near the headwaters of the Lerma River in the State of Michoacan, Mexico. . . . Plans are being prepared for a great masonry dam to be built across the Rio Lerma at Tepuxtepec, in the municipality of Contepec, behind which will be stored 500,000,000 cubic meters of water for use in a great irrigation and hydroelectric power development. These waters will be harnessed to supply the growing demand for electrical power in the Federal district, through a comprehensive system of canals, to be constructed by the government for the irrigation of a great territory near Acambaro.

Porto Rico (Cable Oct. 25) The agricultural outlook is better than it was a year ago. Sugar cane is reported to be in good condition in most districts as a result of advantageous rains, but a dry November is now needed for increasing the sucrose content of the cane.

(Cable Nov. 13) The commercial situation in Porto Rico during the first half of November was slightly better than in either the preceding month or the same period of 1925. Coffee picking which began early in October continues, and liquidations should soon give added strength to the present situation, particularly in the coffee districts. Sugar prices and the present world statistical position of Porto Rico are regarded as more encouraging than for last year. Weather conditions continue favorable to growing crops.

Uruguay (Cable Nov. 6) General conditions in Uruguay give promise of an early improvement of business. Contributing factors are a greater animation in the wool market and timely rains throughout the agricultural regions.

THREE RAINS IN A STORM

A well developed low, moving from the southern plains northeastward to Newfoundland, is usually attended by three important phases of rain or snow over a belt several hundred miles wide south of the path of the center. The first is the chilly east wind phase. Well in advance of the oncoming storm center the cold air begins to move toward the storm. In doing so it may crowd a bit or have to ascend over obstructing hills or mountains, and, in consequence, become cloudy and drizzly. Overhead, a warmer wind from a southerly direction soon begins to blow, and the cooling of this damper wind soon adds rain to the lower drizzle.

A fog may mark the approaching end of this phase, and then the cool air gives way rather suddenly on the "warm front" to warm, muggy air. An hour or more of rainless, partly cloudy weather may follow soon after