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MAKING IT RAIN IS NOT SO EASY

Something More Needed Than Dry Ice Any Old Cloud

(By SAM DAWSON)

NEW YORK—You can't make it rain by picking out just any old cloud and salting its tail with dry ice.

If nature hasn't prepared the right conditions beforehand, you might as well leave your plane on the ground.

For one thing, the cloud has to be "supercooled"—a term taken, not from Hollywood, but from the meteorologist—and nature has to do that trick.

A "supercooled" cloud is one in which the moisture content is below freezing in temperature but still liquid. A meteorologist has ways of measuring the cloud's temperature, to see if it's supercooled, or a pilot can report icing on his plane as he flies through the cloud.

Some amateurs, lured by the modern technique of rain-making, have tackled clouds where the moisture content was above freezing, and seeded them with dry ice. Nothing happened.

Others have used too large and too heavy dry ice pellets, which have fallen straight through the supercooled portion of the cloud before evaporating and setting up the processes of precipitation. Still others have used too much dry ice—the most effective is a gradual distribution of 1½ pounds in each mile of cloud.

Vincent J. Schaefer, General Electric research scientist who first produced snow artificially in November, 1946, said that under the proper weather conditions, the right amount of dry ice effectively distributed over the supercooled region of a cloud produces snow first. It then depends either as snow or rain, depending upon the tempera-

Pigeon Protector Foils Pot Pie Man

VANCOUVER — A silent feud between a 76-year-old bird-lover and a young athletic "business man" is being carried on in the heart of downtown Vancouver.

David McKenzie, who for the last six or seven years has stood guard over the pigeons in Victory Square, has never spoken a word to his arch-enemy, but believes his presence has saved many a bird from a pot pie.

The young man, he says, has made friends with the birds, only to capture them and sell them to restaurants.

"Several times when I have been watching him, I have seen him tempt a bird to him, then tie its legs together and slip it into his pocket," McKenzie said.

"Now, whenever he goes to the square I stand beside him. The birds like me. Perhaps they know what I am doing."

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ture beneath the cloud, or evaporates without reaching the ground if the air beneath the cloud is too dry.

"These techniques will work anywhere, any time," he said, "under the proper weather conditions."

Some of the practical reasons for attempts to make it rain or snow include: relieving parched crops, combatting forest fires, refilling irrigation reservoirs, covering ski-runs with snow, and blanketing tender crops with snow to protect against low temperatures.

Relieving a heat wave by producing a cooling rain is still too grandiose a conception. The small local rains produced by judicious use of dry ice on a supercooled cloud affect a limited area temporarily and have little effect on the large air masses that control general weather conditions.

LETTERBOX

TO ORBIATE FLOOD

Editor, Daily News:

I arrived on the Skeena River in September, 1894, shortly after the great flood of that year which was less than the flood of 1936. Both these floods were caused by the hot wind, hot weather and heavy snows and rains combined. The results of these floods are well known. To the railway alone the damage and cost were tremendous and the public suffered heavily from the havoc and resulting loss.

We have now a long-wished-for public highway along the Skeena River, built for safety purposes. The Skeena River has changed its course in many places from side to side in the valley and that will always continue west of the Little Canon. Now I just want to call public attention to the fact that there is a very serious change going on just below Hell's Gate on the river one mile south of Mile 27 on the railroad. The river here runs due north straight toward the railroad and the next flood, which may come any year, will destroy the railroad from Frank Brothers dairy farm to the Kitsumkalum River. It will also destroy the highway and both bridges which could never be replaced. This can come next year and it will come some time.

In four days in 1896 the river flowed at the rate of 18 to 20 miles an hour at this point and 25 acres of land disappeared on half a mile of its north bank. The south bank of the river is building up gravel bars to the extent of 25 acres, and log jams and trees are growing where the steamboat ran in 1910.

My idea of writing is to call attention to the fact that here is a great menace which I believe can be prevented from occurring if the necessary work is undertaken in time. That time

is now. I would suggest that an airplane with railway and B.C. civil engineers look this site over as soon as possible.

This is no dream. It is a serious menace. A short canal, costing perhaps \$5,000 to \$6,000 and a bulldozer at work for two weeks, might save the railway and the province \$100,000 each.

H. L. FRANK.

SCHOOL ON WHEELS

LUNDAR, Mar. — School children here pile into two railway coaches every day but unless they use their imagination they don't move very far. They were loaned to the district school board after fire last July destroyed the original school building. Equipped with desks, they will continue to serve as classrooms until a new school is built.

MOOSE INVADERS

MIDLAND, Ont. — Visitors to the fall woods in the Horey Harbor area near here may get a taste of the wild when they find themselves lying at the horns of a large moose or two. Several have been seen in the area and a close-up view estimated one at 800 pounds.

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SPORT
New York report announces diamond fans watching World Series at the leaning against bars, those who made tournament Yankee Stadium and Field spin a merry game of 34. Fantastic? Not to Gotham's radio and moguls. Here's how it is: By ordinary broadcast and the arena was available to the largest out-of-park ever to receive a sports event without any effect on the total of attendance the duel. Park was 389,73.
television industry but there now are 50,000 television sets in homes and public places in metropolitan New York, New York, Southern Connecticut, Albany-Troy-Schenectady, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington. There are more than 500,000 homes and thirsty fans of grape counters cheered and jeered the series ever held in baseball history. The telecasts were jointly by an auto company and a razor firm—a deal which cost \$5,000 more to the spec-series' kitty.

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