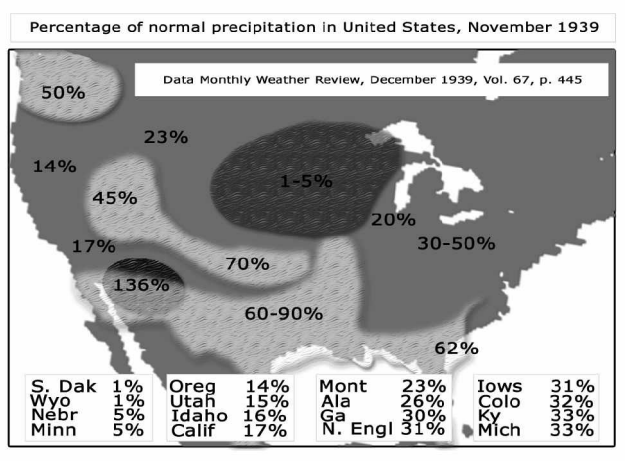


USA dried out

The 'rainmaking' in Europe had a very interesting consequence on the other side of the globe. In the late autumn of 1939, the U.S.A. 'fell dry' after receiving only a small percentage of normal precipitation: in October 78%, in November 44% and in December



71%. On the 7th of January 1940, The New York Times reported that November was an unusual month because of its dry air. According to US Weather Bureau "the fall season was extremely dry over large areas. From the Rocky Mountains eastward it was the driest fall on record considering the area as a whole."

After three months of poor rains, the soil and ground were too dry and thus unable to supply the atmosphere with humidity through evaporation. The door was open to polar air. On the 13th of December, Mountain View, Franklin County, New York had already reported a temperature of minus 20°F (= -29°C). Before the end of the year, winter brought "a biting northerly wind, driving gray, snow-laden clouds." It was New York's coldest winter day before the New Year's Eve: down to 12°F.

Arctic air from the North was attracted by the dry American continent around Christmas and the U.S.A. remained under its influence until the end of January 1940.