

When gales of this latter class reach any station the barometric pressure generally rises rapidly, whereas in gales of the class (b) the pressure first falls rapidly and then rises. Whirlwinds, viz, gales attending low pressures, had long been known to navigators throughout the tropical and equatorial regions, but northwesterners, with rising barometer, were not well recognized by English navigators until the present century. The younger Scoresby, in his journal of a voyage on the eastern coast of west Greenland (Edinburgh, 1823, p. 358), says:

It is observable that the barometer (September 3, 1822), which had been at 28.35 for upwards of thirty hours before the commencement of the gale, began to rise the moment the gale attained its height. It rose about .4 of an inch in a very short interval. This rising of the mercury at the commencement of a storm is a circumstance that I have frequently observed. It is not indicative, however, either of a short duration or an approaching cessation of the gale, for after such a rise I have known many gales to continue for thirty or forty hours unabated.

**OPENING OF NAVIGATION IN CANADA.**

The following table, showing the average date of the opening of navigation at Canadian ports during the past twenty years, is published by Prof. R. F. Stupart on "The Monthly Weather Map" for February, 1897:

Canadian Ports.	Dates of opening.		
	Earliest.	Latest.	Average.
Lake Superior: Port Arthur .....	Mar. 18	May 22	Apr. 26
St. Marys River: Sault Ste. Marie.....	Apr. 8	May 12	Apr. 27
St. Claire River: Sarnia.....	Mar. 7	May 3	Apr. 5
Lake Erie: Port Colborne .....	Apr. 15	May 9	Apr. 25
Lake Ontario: Burlington Bay .....	Mar. 1	Apr. 28	Apr. 11
Lake Ontario: Toronto .....	Feb. 18	Apr. 25	Mar. 23
Lake Ontario: Kingston .....	Mar. 6	Apr. 24	Apr. 5
St. Lawrence River: Montreal .....	Mar. 30	May 5	Apr. 21

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, D. C., March 23, 1897.

*To the Chiefs of the Scientific Divisions of the U. S. Department of Agriculture:*

Dr. Charles W. Dabney, Jr., of Tennessee, has this day been appointed as "Special Agent in charge of Scientific and Statistical Investigations" in this Department.

It will be the duty of this special agent to consider, for the information of the Secretary of Agriculture, the scientific and technical work of the divisions of this Department specified below, to supervise the same under his direction, and to make recommendations respecting their scientific work, reports, papers, etc., for his action.

The following divisions and offices are hereby directed to report to the Secretary through this special agent:

- Division of Forestry.
- Division of Botany.

- Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology.
- Division of Agrostology.
- Division of Pomology.
- Division of Chemistry.
- Division of Biological Survey.
- Division of Soils.
- Division of Entomology.
- Office of Experiment Stations.
- Office of Fiber Investigations.
- Section of Foreign Markets and Special Statistical Investigations, Cotton, and Tobacco.

All questions and official correspondence involving the scientific and technical work of said divisions and offices will be submitted to this special agent for approval and signature, unless such correspondence involves administrative policy, in which case it will be signed by the Secretary.

JAMES WILSON,  
*Secretary of Agriculture.*

**METEOROLOGICAL TABLES.**

By A. J. HENRY, Chief of Division of Records and Meteorological Data.

For text descriptive of tables and charts see page 20 of REVIEW for January, 1897.