The type for the entire State shows a July maximum and a November minimum, with a secondary minimum for March–April. For the east coast there is a distinct type, with a principal maximum in September or October and a secondary maximum in June or July. Back from this coast the early summer maximum exceeds the later one, which disappears entirely farther inland.

In classifying the distribution of rainfall by causes, the daily weather maps for the 15-year period, 1910–1924, were studied and any precipitation for each of the six stations, Pensacola, Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Eustis, Tampa, and Miami, was segregated under one of the four headings: (1) Local convection, (2) cyclonic (extratropical) storms, (3) tropical disturbances, and (4) hurricanes. These data were tabulated for each station, showing both actual values of mean monthly and seasonal precipitation and their percentage of mean annual rainfall. An unweighted arithmetic mean for the six stations was used to give some idea of distribution by causes for the State as a whole.

The proportions found were: Local convection about 33%, cyclonic storms 40%, tropical disturbances 20%, and hurricanes 6%. Cyclonic storms account for over half of the mean rainfall in west Florida, but decrease in importance to the east and south, so that at Miami they account for but 25%, with corresponding increases from the other causes.

Half the spring rainfall in southern Florida is due to cyclonic storms, while over 75% is thus rated in west Florida. In summer local convection causes about 60% of the rainfall throughout the State. Tropical disturbances, including hurricanes, bring half the autumn rainfall for the State as a whole but are more important on the east coast. Winter precipitation is over 80% cyclonic, except for Miami, where the value is 60%. From the monthly data, the period November–May may be considered that of cyclonic storms, June–August of local convection, and September–October of tropical disturbances.

Marked variations above mean values, whether annual or seasonal, may generally be traced to a few tropical disturbances, more particularly those of hurricane intensity. Light rainfall, on the other hand, is explained by lack of such tropical disturbances in the warm season or by freedom from cyclonic storms in the remainder of the year.

ANOTHER MILD WINTER—1926-27 [1]

By J. B. KINCER

The United States has experienced, in recent years, a remarkable series of mild winters. The winter of 1917–18 was severe practically everywhere east of the Rocky Mountains, but following this, year after year, the winters have been moderate to unusually mild, as a rule, and that of 1926–27, just closed, was one of the mildest of the long series. The only exception to continuous winter mildness since 1917–18 was the winter of 1919–20, which was cold in Central and Northern States east of the Mississippi River, but otherwise mostly mild. The outstanding cases of widespread mildness for the series were the winters of 1920–21, 1923–24, and 1926–27, in each of which practically every State in the Union had a warmer than normal winter.

Chart I shows the departure of mean temperature from normal for the winter of 1926–27. It indicates that local areas in the Northeast and the upper Lake region, as well as a small district in the far Northwest, were slightly cooler than normal, but at all stations in these, except one, the temperature averaged only 1° subnormal. In all other sections of the country the winter was warmer than normal, and in large areas the plus departures ranged from 3° to as much as 6°. It was especially warm in the South, and as a result vegetation at the end of the winter season was much further advanced than usual.

The broken lines on Chart I afford a comparison between the southern limit of zero temperatures reported from first-order Weather Bureau stations during the past winter with previous records. While temperatures as low as zero have occurred in comparatively recent years as far south as the east Gulf coast, during the winter of 1926–27 subzero readings were confined to practically the northern half of the country, the zero line not extending farther south than Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Missouri. In addition, the lowest temperatures for the winter in Northern States were generally well above the previous low record, being in most cases from 10° to 25° higher. There were no previous low records broken, but the maxima equaled or exceeded the previous high record at many stations, especially in the southern half of the country. In general, the winter should be classed as moderate in about half the country, probably moderately severe locally, and mild in the other half.

Chart II shows the percentage of normal precipitation for the three winter months. In most sections west of the Rocky Mountains the period was wetter than usual, particularly in the extreme Southwest and on the western slope of the central Rocky Mountain area where some stations reported more than twice the normal amount for the season. It was also above normal in most of the Southwest and over a belt extending from the lower Missouri Valley northeastward to southern New York, while a rather restricted area in the North Central States had more than the usual amount. In the Northwest, over most of the Great Plains, and generally from the Ohio River and extreme lower Missouri Valley northward there was less than normal, with some stations reporting only about half the usual amount. Precipitation was also deficient in the immediate Gulf section and generally in the Southeast and the Atlantic Coast States.

There was more than the normal amount of snowfall for the winter in many of the high elevations of the Western States and also along the northern border of the country from the western Lake region westward, while the amounts were above normal in most places in the northern Ohio Valley area, from the central Lake region eastward, and in Atlantic coast districts from Pennsylvania northward. In addition, local areas in Virginia and North Carolina and in northern Texas and Oklahoma had somewhat more than the usual amount. Elsewhere quite generally east of the Rocky Mountains there was less than normal snowfall, the deficiencies being especially large in the Missouri and middle and upper Mississippi Valleys, the upper Ohio Valley, the South Central States, and middle Atlantic area.

[1] Reprinted from Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin, Mar. 15, 1927.

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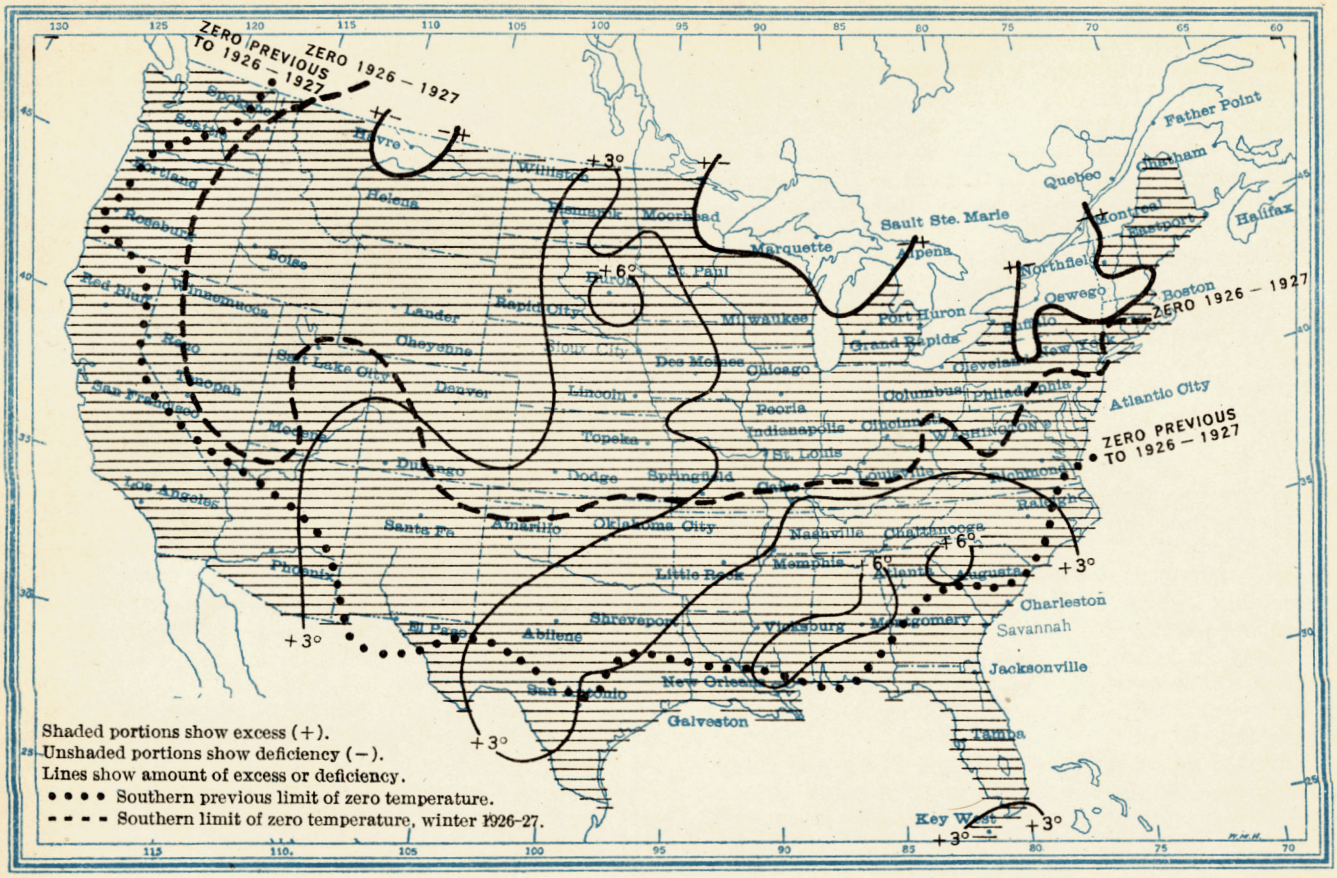
J. B. K. **I.—Departure of Mean Temperature from the Normal for the Winter (December-February) of 1926-27**



J. B. K. **II.—Percentage of Normal Precipitation for the Winter (December-February) of 1926-27**