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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
Secretary, American Meteorological Society,
discusses:

FORECASTING IN JUNE

Summer is the calm time of year and the calm time in the life of the weather forecaster, yet it is not without its thrills. There are no general storms, gales, snowstorms, and cold waves to look out for; but there are hot spells and thunderstorms and after July along the eastern coasts the West Indian hurricanes must be watched. April showers have dried up; the cool fair weather of May has weakened under the attack of the sun. The sun, in fact, is boss. Seldom does a day begin so ill that the warmth of his beams is not sufficient to pierce the clouds and warm the earth. Nights may be cool but the days are warm and there is more difference between the day and night temperatures than between those of succeeding days. "Fair and somewhat warmer" is a good forecast.

But the weather does change. The sun has some competition. The Great Lakes are still almost icy cold. Ice floes and icebergs are still drifting down from Labrador and Greenland. Warm air from the interior of the country rises and drifts away at the upper levels to settle perhaps over the cold water of the Lakes, Hudson Bay and the Labrador current. Still warmer air is drawn in from the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf Stream. The east experiences a hot wave.

Then the cool air from the north and northeast, creeps in under the warm, humid air; there are general thunderstorms and the hot wave is broken. It is the forecaster's job to tell when all this is going to happen, a matter of great interest to the farmer, the ice man, and the summer vacationist, so that early summer is not such a serene and placid time for him as one might expect.

(Tomorrow: Height of the Rainbow.)