

No. 36

A Science Service Feature

June 22

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

NORTH POLE GETS MORE HEAT TODAY THAN EQUATOR

Today is the longest day in the year, and the sun climbs highest in the sky this noon. At the North Pole the sun is riding around the sky from midnight to midnight at 23-1/2 degrees above the horizon, and is providing as much heat every hour there as it does at the noon hour on December 22 in the latitude of Portland, Syracuse, N.Y., Grand Haven, and Milwaukee. The sun is higher in the sky today throughout the United States except for a narrow strip from northern Minnesota to Vancouver Island than it is on the equator, and it stays above the horizon hours longer. The sun may shine today for 15 hours and 37 minutes at Minneapolis, for 15 hours and 13 minutes at Chicago, for 14 hours and 31 minutes at Chattanooga, and for 14 hours and 5 minutes at New Orleans. On the equator it can shine but 12 hours and 7 minutes today.

Even where the noonday sun is no higher today along the northern border of the United States than it is at the equator, its rays are more intense, for our absorbing screen of water vapor is thinner than that of the equatorial regions. Is it surprising then that our heat sometimes surpasses that of the tropics and that sunstroke invades our latitudes?

(Tomorrow: How To Test for Thunderstorms.)

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