

Oct. 1

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

COOL WAVES MADE DROUGHT.

The very unusual persistence of dry weather during the past few months broken only by short rainy periods in much of the northeastern United States and eastern Canada is ascribable to the prevalence of dry air pushed out in such large volumes from stagnant areas of dry, cool air and high pressure to the north and northeast, the cause of which has not yet been fully determined. When the winds blew from the south or west they seldom prevailed long enough to bring enough moisture to favor the usual summer showers before the wind would shift again to a polar direction. Abundantly moist air having been absent there have been very few of the local or heat thunderstorms, with their bountiful showers.

There was a limit, however, to the extent of the dry blanket of air, and beyond this heavy rains have occurred during several periods from the Great Plains to the south Atlantic coast. In fact, the dry air outflowing from the northern and northeastern regions so nosed under or fell over the warmer and moister air in these sections that the rains were much greater there than if the warm moist had not been so disturbed. The dry air stopped, elevated and dried the moist air before it had an opportunity to travel more than a small portion of its usual summer journey northwards and northeastwards. Moisture usually distributed moderately and widely over the eastern North America was thus dropped in the South.

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(Tomorrow: Visibility.)

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