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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
Secretary, American Meteorological Society,
Tells How:

HURRICANE PROTRACTS A DROUGHT.

The perversity of weather was well demonstrated in the last week of September when a West Indian hurricane seems to have deprived the northeastern United States of a promised rain which was sadly needed to break a long continued drought, and at the same time gave to that section of the Great Plains centering in Omaha disastrous floods.

A cyclone, or area of low pressure, had started on its way across the continent from the southwest, when the hurricane swept its way northwestward toward the Florida coast, and swerved northeastward up the Gulf Stream. One result was to accentuate the inflow of cold dry air from the north over the eastern part of the continent, forming an atmospheric dyke which served as a barrier to hold back the approaching "low". Instead of passing onward to bring rain where it was so greatly needed, the resultant precipitation was concentrated in the Omaha region, where an excess of rainfall caused serious floods. In the meantime the reservoirs of the northeastern states continued to get lower, and more and more of the wells and springs dried up, causing discomfort and inconvenience to increase, all apparently because nature selected this particular time and course for a hurricane.

(Tomorrow: Drought and Nature's Water Supply.)

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