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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
Secretary, American Meteorological Society,
Tells about

INDIAN SUMMER.

The autumn that does not have either late in October or in November at least one period of the warm weather that we know as Indian summer is rare enough. Sometimes there are two distinct series of these days, separated by a colder spell; more rarely there are three; one is practically certain. In the midst of early cold days, when there has been heavy frost at night and ice has formed of mornings, and there has been bleak and stormy weather, there comes as a reprieve from winter, a brief but glorious interlude of warmth and balminess. The landscapes are golden, set in an atmosphere of wonderful blue haze. It seems, indeed, that summer has come again, though on an autumn plane of temperature.

Indian summer arrives in the transition period, as summer merges into winter, and quite naturally the weather may assume alternately the characteristics of either in a modified degree. The atmosphere is subject to less violent agitation in the late fall than in the spring, when the air is in strong circulation between the heated south and the snow-covered north. There is less of turbulence generally and fewer local storms. Areas of high and low pressure pass less swiftly, and therefore when Indian Summer comes with some stagnant or slowly moving high centered in the South it usually remains for a number of days.

(Tomorrow: The Naming of Indian Summer.)
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