

Oct. 27

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

AUTUMN HAZE

The beautiful blue haze of autumn is due chiefly to the presence of smoke in the atmosphere, or rather to the dust particles originating in smoke. In the fall of the year, when the ground is carpeted with dried grass and dead leaves, fires are all too frequent, and their smoke hangs low, because there is very little formation of vertical air currents which would serve to dissipate it, and it travels far. An atmosphere laden with smoke dust always looks blue when seen away from the sun, and the result is one of the most beautiful phenomena of nature, the haze which we usually associate with Indian Summer.

Every autumn some parts of the country suffer from drought and become tinder-dry, and the carelessness of man does the rest. An abandoned campfire, the thoughtless dropping of a lighted match or live coal from a pipe or a burning cigarette, or a spark from a locomotive stack, any one of these may start a fire which, if conditions favor, will cover thousands of square miles with smokedust as it drifts hundreds of miles across the land. If there be any compensation whatever for a vast waste of natural resources, it is the beauty of the blue haze of autumn, with its harmony of gay-colored landscape.

All rights reserved by Science Service

Science Service,
1115 Conn. Ave.,
Washington, D.C.