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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
Secretary, American Meteorological Society,
tells about:

NORTHERS AND WHERE THEY GO

The Norther of the Great Plains is one of the most far-reaching features of American weather and when it extends its path into the sub-tropical sections of the United States it may prove highly destructive to the citrus fruit trees. It is caused by the piling up of vast masses of air in the regions north of Alberta, even as far north as Alaska and beyond in Siberia. Finally this accumulated icy air overflows southward in a tremendous sweep, especially when drawn, as it were, by an area of low air pressure over Texas or the Gulf of Mexico. It rushes down over the Great Plains, carrying with it very low temperatures. Often it arrives with little or no warning, and the mercury may drop 40 and even 50 degrees in a few hours.

The piled up air of the north maintains the Norther's advance, pushing it from behind until the cold wave may extend down to the Gulf States, and even across the Gulf and the Isthmus of Panama within the tropics, bringing with it a dreaded condition of chilliness and torrential rains. Serious disturbances may follow in the Pacific, south of the Isthmus, which may breed a hurricane.

Similarly, the norther of the eastern states may be pushed far south, to embrace almost the whole of Florida, with the exception of the extreme southern keys, which is the only spot in the United States that has never been nipped by killing frost. Cool weather may even pass on into the West Indies.

(Tomorrow: October Snows in the East)

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