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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

THE SNOWFALL ABOUT THE GREAT LAKES

December is the snowiest month in the northern Lake region. There is still much open water to moisten the passing air and there are frequent cold west and northwest winds to drive under and elevate the air over the Lakes. Even the small obstruction offered by the low eastern shores does its part in forcing the strong Lake winds to rise, thereby cooling them further and increasing the snowfall. While people on western shores enjoy clear, cold, windy weather, those on the eastern shores must endure a chilly, bleak wind, full of driven snow.

The differences in total snowfall resulting are remarkable. To take the extreme case, Port Arthur, Ontario, on the northern shore of Lake Superior, averages 31 inches annually, while the town of Adams Center, N.Y., near the eastern end of Lake Ontario and about 50 miles north of Syracuse, has nearly 185 inches, with a single season's record of 334 inches which may be contrasted with Port Arthur's best year of 70 inches. Other examples are in the average snowfalls of 49 inches in Duluth, 136 inches in Calumet, 36 inches in Chicago, 65 inches in South Bend, 29 inches in Sandusky and 78 inches in Buffalo. The weather maps of recent weeks have shown many examples of the individual differences that taken together make up these totals.

(Tomorrow: The Proportion of Stormy Days)

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