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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

DAYS GROW LONGER, COLD GROWS STRONGER

The coldest weather of winter is by no means in the period of shortest days. It comes as January is beginning to decline and in February. There are three reasons for this. One is that the ground continues to give out more heat than it receives from the sun many days after the winter solstice. In fact, it is not until late in January that a balance is struck, when the amount of heat received by the ground equals that which it radiates and loses in other ways. By February 1, on the average, the season turns, so far as the gaining of heat by the ground is concerned. But the influence of the snowfields in regions which have them still exists. As snow increases in depth it becomes colder at the surface and has an important effect upon temperatures of the air. The third influence is the increasing cold of the far north, lying in the long winter night, receiving absolutely no heat directly from the sun, and every so often overflowing its cold down into more southern regions, such as Canada and the United States. Therefore, in spite of the lengthening days, it is not until the last of January, for much of the United States that the mercury begins to average higher. It is truly said at mid-winter that when the days grow longer, the cold grows stronger.

(Tomorrow: Dry Cold of the North.)

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