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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
Secretary, American Meteorological Society,
discusses:

DRY COLD OF THE NORTH

In the extreme northern regions of the United States and in southern Canada and on the western highlands a dry cold is experienced which often is endured without great discomfort, even when the mercury is well below zero, while a much higher temperature farther south, especially along the coast, may bring with it a penetrating chill which is hard to endure. The air of the north is dry on a clear day, otherwise its moisture would quickly condense in so cold an atmosphere. But the dryness itself is not the real cause of comfort. It is the windless, clear atmosphere, that usually characterizes the days of lowest temperature. Such a condition is essential to the development of a very low temperature after a wind has brought in a large mass of cold air.

During the day the heat of the bright sun has an appreciable warming effect upon outer clothing and exposed parts of the body, and both day and night the absence of wind prevents the cold air from working in beneath garments and stealing away accumulated body heat. Wind, too, acts to cool the skin by evaporation, and its absence is thus a negative warming influence. But let this same dry air strike as a blast against the body and penetrate through the crannies of clothing and it is cold enough.

(Tomorrow: Sun Dogs and the Heavenly Cross.)

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Science Service,
1115 Conn. Ave.,
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