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A Science Service Feature

March 4

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
of Clark University,
discusses:

AVERAGE MARCH WEATHER

"With the beginning of March," says a note by the Weather Bureau, "there is, as a rule, a rather rapid warming-up in all sections of the country, but much more in the northern portion than in the southern, principally because of the more rapidly increasing length of days in the north. During March, the successive days become longer (sunrise to sunset) at an average rate of about 3 minutes a day in the more northern portion of the country and at about half that rate in the more southern." At this period, an increase of 6 minutes in the day's length corresponds to an increase of about one degree Fahrenheit in the daily normal temperature, but we cannot look forward to any such orderly progressive warming up, for average weather exists mainly on paper.

"Throughout the Central States March is about ten degrees warmer than February, but on the Pacific coast the change is much less marked. In eastern districts there is a rather uniform increase in the monthly mean temperature from about 20 degrees in the far north to about 60 degrees along the Gulf coast." March cold waves rarely penetrate far south; as a rule killing frost does not occur in the greater portion of the Gulf States after March 15.

March is characterized throughout the country by relatively heavy precipitation. The Rocky Mountain region and Great Plains receive, on the average, nearly twice as much precipitation in March as in February, while east of the Mississippi there is also a material increase. Heavy rains continue on the Pacific coast, while in the mountains of that region, March is frequently the month of heaviest snowfall.

(Tomorrow: Smoke as Wind Indicator)

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