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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

DROUTH IN CALIFORNIA

Californians, and the rest of us, who eat California fruits and vegetables, should rejoice in the apparent ending of southern California's drouth some weeks before the dry summer begins. Oranges, as well as California industries, must depend on water impounded in winter for their juice in summer.

It is hard for easterners, whose papers have been full of flood news and who have hardly got over being stuck in the mud of a wet spring, to appreciate how dry California has been this winter. Perhaps, however, some people still remember the dryness of last summer and fall in the northeastern section, and can recall empty reservoirs, dry springs, and driving cattle miles for their drink.

From October 1 to the middle of March southern California had received but one-fifth to one-third the average rainfall, while northern California had about two-fifths the average. Rains during the last two weeks of March and first week in April, however, totaled nearly double to more than treble the amounts that fell in the preceding six months in southern California, but hardly tempered the drouth in the northern half of the state. Even with these accessions, however, the rainfall of the winter's wet season is generally but half of the average. The water stored in the snows of the Sierras at the end of the winter was the least in many years.

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(Tomorrow: Secondary Storms)

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