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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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MORNING RAINS - AFTERNOON SHOWERS

Some people in daylight saving towns may have noticed that since daylight saving became the practice in recent years they have not been caught in an afternoon shower so often. This would naturally follow from the afternoon showers being characteristic of days with morning rains. While before daylight saving the proverb ran, "Rain before seven, shine before eleven," now we must lose the rhyme and say "Rain before eight, shine before twelve." Formerly the morning rains in damp weather would usually be over before the office-worker left home, and the umbrella was not needed. Now they are still going when he sets out - taking his umbrella with him as a matter of course.

Under conditions moist enough for "rain before seven" the "shine before eleven (or twelve)" provides the heat necessary for the production of afternoon showers. The first shine may so quickly make low clouds that not for another hour or two can the sun appear again. On this second attempt the clouds, resulting from the forced rise of the warm moist air, often make showers. These may begin as early as two, but they are most common only after four or five (five or six daylight time". So when it is time to go home the afternoon showers are not fully developed, and even should one happen along, the morning umbrella immediately becomes useful again, to ward off raindrops, made perhaps, of some of the same molecules of water that came down in the morning.

(Tomorrow: Weather in Summer Railroading)

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