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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE SUMMER OF 1924.

Our summer, meteorologically ended on August 31, fashionably closing today, and astronomically to be concluded September 23, has been as generally unusual as are most summers. As the almanac and other long range forecasters warned us there have been "droughts relieved by showers", "hot spells interspersed with cool spells", and severe local storms now and then, here and there. The summer began unpromisingly. East of the Rockies the remarkable coolness of May continued into June; while west of the Rockies the extraordinary warmth of May extended generally through June and July, with moderate temperatures in August. In the East the coolness of spring gave way first along the Gulf coast, then throughout the South, the Great Plains and Middle West (except about the Lakes), and finally throughout the East before June was two-thirds over. But after one warm week two or three cool ones followed, the first eight days in July being surprisingly cool and dry in the Middle West and Gulf States. Over a large area the mean temperature for this period was 9 to 14 degrees Fahrenheit below the average. The first third of August was very hot from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic seaboard, except about the Lakes. The middle third was generally cool, locally very much so, but during the last ten days of the month the eastern two-thirds of the country had generally clear, dry, warm weather. Except in Texas and the far West, where severe drought prevailed, most weeks in summer provided measurable rainfall, sometimes well over 2, 4, or 6 inches. Following a more or less general drought in July, the eastern seaboard was well watered in August.

(Tomorrow: The Last Heat of Summer)
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