

No. 468

A Science Service Feature

Nov. 10

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A REMARKABLE OCTOBER

Rarely does a period of practical rainlessness <sup>s• closely</sup> coincide with the calendar month as did that of October, 1924, in the eastern half of the United States and the adjoining portion of Canada. The severe tropical rainstorm that deluged the eastern states and provinces at the end of September left a fair day October 1. And the following thirty days were also fair, except for light rains in the north and Middle West during the first fortnight and moderate rains in the southeast and Middle West near the end of the month. The peninsula of Florida, especially the eastern and southern portions, was deluged, however, portions having over 12 inches each in the second and third week. The Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland also had abundant rainfall. On the Pacific slope, great cyclones brought gales and heavy rains, from northern California northward during the last week of the month. October is usually a stormy month there.

The temperatures in the Middle West were as extraordinary as the dryness in the East and most of the South. During each of the first three weeks the temperatures were generally above normal in the Middle West, the two weeks from Oct. 7 to 21, averaging more than three degrees Fahrenheit above normal over one third to one half the country, while <sup>in</sup> large regions <sup>the departures</sup> ran up 9, 12, or 15 degrees. After the 21st a great pile of air more or less stagnant over the southeastern half of the United States kept the weather cool there, while on the western and northern plains the persistent south winds brought bright warm days with temperatures into the 70s even in Canada. North Dakota for a week was as warm as Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia.

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(Tomorrow: Clouds as Thermostats)  
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