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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SNOW THAT STICKS

Some wet snows load trees and bushes heavily, cling to fences and posts, and will roll up into large balls easily. When a wind accompanies the snowfall the opposite sides of tree trunks present a striking contrast. Facing the wind and looking at the lee sides we see bare black trunks; turning round and looking at the windward surfaces we find them white with snow. If the wind is very light the snow will load the top sides of branches and fence rails and will be plastered but little on vertical surfaces. Fir trees may let no snow through to the ground even during falls of over six inches, and a single small tree will support, if strong enough, several hundred pounds of snow. A wet snow occurring recently in New England not only broke branches from trees, but also in a windy belt caused the wholesale destruction of lines of telephone poles. The snow was wet by melting in passing through a warm wind at a moderate height, while the air near the ground remained near enough freezing to eliminate melting after the snow struck and stuck.

At times snow will cling even though it may not be wet. In one instance, a snowfall made up of crystals in the form of straight fuzzy rods averaging about 1/16th of an inch in length, clung together on reaching a suitable support, forming a tenacious blanket. Spaces as wide as 10 inches were bridged across.

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(Tomorrow: Almanac Forecasting)

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