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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SOME CONTROLS OF EASTERN WEATHER

Whether the winter including some of March is mild or severe in eastern North America seems to depend mainly upon whether the wind is mostly onshore or offshore, southerly or northerly. With an onshore wind the coast experiences a mild marine climate. With a wind from the frigid interior the climate is continental, with severe low temperatures.

But, going a step farther back, what controls the winds? At about latitude 30 degrees North there is a belt of high pressure. If a particular center in this belt, the Bermuda "high", is strong and persistent, it will cause prevailing southerly winds in the east and storms will be hunted far to the north. The warm fall and early winter of 1923, and some of our recent weeks, notably the first half of February, 1925, may be cited as examples. If this Bermuda "high" is absent or moves too far to the east, cold northwest winds can blow without obstruction from the interior to the coast and out over the ocean itself, as was the case in February and March, 1924.

We may ask, in turn, what controls the Bermuda high? It seems that ocean temperatures below normal tend to intensify the Bermuda high, and thus, paradoxically, to make our weather warmer, while temperatures of the ocean surface above normal weaken the Bermuda high and tend toward colder weather for us.

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(Tomorrow: Thunderstorms Soon)

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