

June 29

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks,  
of Clark University.A LIFE SAVING SEA BREEZE

The air is breathless, the sun merciless, the heat stifling; then comes a dark ripple on the water, a rustle in the trees. People take a deep breath. The hot spell is over. Soon the trees begin to bend before an increasing northeast wind. Fog or low clouds scud by. The sun disappears. People shiver. The first breeze takes the temperature down 10 degrees in 10 minutes. The wind carries it 15 degrees lower still within the first hour, and runs it down 15 or 20 degrees more in the next six hours. This happened in southern New England June 7, 1925, and established a record for a summertime drop in temperature. It is typical of the ending of hot spells on coasts bathed by cool water. At Worcester, where the breeze arrived in the heat of the early afternoon the temperature fell from 94 to 49 degrees Fahrenheit.

Typical sea-breeze conditions, this invasion of cool air started apparently from the cold ocean in the vicinity of Halifax or beyond the day before. During the night it brought relief throughout southern Maine, and the next morning was entering southern New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The cool front advanced at about 15 miles an hour, reaching Cape Ann and lower Cape Cod shortly after 9 (standard time), Boston at 10:30, Blue Hill and the upper Cape just before noon. At Worcester, an advancing line of clouds appeared in the northeast about 11 o'clock, the cool wave arrived shortly after one o'clock; by two o'clock it had extended nearly to Providence. It touched Springfield after 4 and Greater New York about 10 p.m., Philadelphia got relief early the next morning. The cool wind extended 150 miles inland to the Berkshires, but did not reach Albany. Southwest of New York a coastal strip less than 100 miles wide was favored - including New Jersey and a bit of eastern Pennsylvania. The sunshine of June 8 largely obliterated the identity of the cool tongue of air at its thin southern tip. Philadelphia was warmed to 88 degrees from a morning temperature in the 60s. It remained hot continuously in Baltimore and Washington.

(Tomorrow: Sea Breeze and Sea Turn)

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