

No. 722

A Science Service Feature

Sept. 3

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks  
of Clark University.

CLEAR VS. CLOUDY DAYS

On the basis of cloudiness, the Weather Bureau divides all days into "clear", "partly cloudy, or fair", and "cloudy". A clear day means a day with the sky 1/4 or less covered with clouds on the average. "Partly cloudy" days have from 1/4 to 3/4 cloudiness, "cloudy" days from 3/4 to complete cloudiness.

By far the clearest part of the United States is the southwest quarter. Most of this large area has at least 160 clear days a year, the central interior of California, most of Arizona and western New Mexico enjoy more than 200 clear days, and a small section along the border between southern California and Arizona actually has over 300. This is the region where there is advertised: "Free board every day the sun doesn't shine". The Northwest, the Northeast and the Lake region comprise the cloudiest districts. The north Pacific coast with only 80 clear days and 180 cloudy is perhaps the cloudiest of all. Along the Great Lakes 100 clear days and 140 to 160 cloudy ones are common, while in the vicinity of Boston clear and cloudy days are about equal, 120 of each being usual.

-----  
(Tomorrow: Helium High Up)

All rights reserved by Science Service

SCIENCE SERVICE,  
B and 21st Sts.,  
Washington, D.C.