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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks
of Clark University.

FOREST FIRE WEATHER SEASON CLOSED

The autumn forest fire season has drawn to a close. The fire wardens have been closing up their camps and climbing down the mountains. This fall has been a happy one for the forest fire wardens. Frequent and heavy rains both in the north-east and in the west have reduced forest fires to a minimum. Last year, with a mild dry fall, the situation was much worse.

The weather services have their share to do in guarding against forest fires. It is possible to issue warnings of conditions particularly favorable for fires, low relative humidity and high winds. Humidity observations alone have been found an effective basis for warnings in the West and in Ontario. If the relative humidity is above 60 per cent., that is, if more than 60 per cent. of the possible moisture is present in the air, fires do not spread. Humidities between 40 and 50 per cent. allow fires to spread slightly, while humidities below 30 per cent. tend to make even small fires spread beyond control. It is expected that humidity observations will be available next year for anticipating bad fire conditions in the Middle West and East.

(Tomorrow: Ice Storms)

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