

Intended for use  
Feb. 1, 1926

Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed Jan. 25, 1926

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks  
of Clark University

WAKE UP, MR. GROUNDHOG

"If Candlemas be fair and bright,  
Winter will have another flight  
If Candlemas be clouds and rain  
Winter will not return again."

Tomorrow, Feb. 2, is Candlemas day, when tradition says that Mr. Groundhog wakes up from his winter's sleep and comes out of his burrow. If the day be sunny and he sees his shadow, he will return again for a nap of six weeks more, but if the day is cloudy he will know that mild weather is ahead and he will stay up.

Not wishing to do injustice to any amateur, the Weather Bureau investigated Mr. Groundhog's claims to accuracy as a forecaster. Unfortunately, it appears that the cloudiness or clearness of February 2 shows no constant relation to the weather of the following six weeks. Mr. F. W. Seward also compiled some statistics. He chose the average departure of temperature Feb. 2 to March 15. Of the 15 years, studied according to the proverb, 9 years should have been cold during the six weeks after Candlemas. Only four of those specified were cold, the other five were warm. Of the six that were to have been warm, only two were correctly "indicated". So Mr. Groundhog is denounced as a false prophet as well as a pest.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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