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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SNOW-COVER PROLONGS WINTER.

When snow is formed some of winter's cold is locked up for later delivery. It is winter's baggage. Thus, once the snow-cover is well established in the Northeast, it is as hard to get rid of winter as it is to put out an overstayed guest anchored by numerous trunkloads of personal belongings. The days grow longer, the sunlight becomes stronger, but still the snow hangs on.

Sunlight is not particularly effective in melting clean snow, as so much of the energy is reflected from the white surface. As long as the snow-cover lasts, it acts as a great refrigerating plant and doesn't let the thermometer rise far above freezing. By preventing unseasonable warm spells, it protects vegetation from budding out prematurely. In the region of Washington, D. C., for instance, where a snow-cover seldom persists long, the temperature sometimes shoots up to 90 degrees Fahrenheit towards the end of March. Rose bushes leaf out, fruit trees bloom, only to be severely nipped a little later. The snow-cover of the Northeast, though sometimes discouragingly slow in departing, has its advantages. It steadies the season and prevents some freakish high jumps of the mercury.

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