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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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MARCH WEATHER TYPES

North America is occupied on the average in March by a great three-pronged high pressure area: north, southeast, and southwest. On either side, over the northern Pacific and Atlantic is a large low. These lows occupy regions that are warm relative to the cold interior, for over a wet region that is relatively warm, the air is more expanded and lighter than over a dry cold area. The southern east and west prongs of highpressure are part of the sub-tropical belt of high pressure encircling the globe. From the highs the air moves outward and to the right slantwise toward the lows.

"The weather of the Middle Atlantic States," says Dr. Oliver L. Fassig, "is cold when the continental high area controls this region; it is warm when the Atlantic high area extends its influence,(that is, its outblowing southerly winds) westward beyond the coast; it is normal when there is a fairly equal development in strength and extent of the two high areas, in which case now one, then the other, is in control of the wind direction, bringing alternately cold and warm air to the region.

"A complete control of the region by either area is accompanied by a deficient rainfall. The extent and persistance of the high area defines the extent and severity of a drought." This is because dry air is usually descending in highs.

"The paths of storms lie within the trough between the two high areas; when the trough is wide the storm paths are widely scattered; as the high areas approach one another the storm paths are contracted within narrower limits."

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