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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Dr. Charles F. Brooks
of Clark University

THE WINTER'S SNOWFALL

With the middle of March at hand, and the date of the "blizzard" of 1888 past, we may talk of the snowfall of the winter of 1925-26 as largely a closed incident. Much of the winter's snow fell in October: in fact, the snowy period began in September. Over wide regions, snow came at dates earlier than any previously known record and fell in unprecedented quantity; 6 feet in parts of the central and northern Rockies, 2 feet on the piedmont in Montana, and up to a foot or more in the Northeast. Snow occurred almost throughout the country south to the 35th parallel. This did not happen again till late January. November was generally much less snowy, except in the central plateaus and southern Rockies and from the middle plains to Wisconsin. Heavy snows also fell on these regions in December. Moderate depths covered virtually all of Texas and part of Mexico late in the month, and again four weeks later.

The first important snowstorm did not affect the East till January was well begun. More snow a fortnight later still left January's total far below the average. Though there had been 4 feet of snowfall in western New York in December, the snow in northern regions to the end of January was generally inadequate for the usual winter logging. But the first half of February buried the Northeast under 2 to 4 feet of new snow, and in the northern portions more and more snow accumulated. March opened with 38 inches of snow on the ground at Quebec: then it snowed much more, and in western New York brought on impassable conditions.

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