

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A POSSIBLE WEATHER AND OCEAN CONNECTION

Temperatures reported by ship masters for October, November and December, 1925, showed the highest temperatures of the Gulf Stream in the Straits of Florida for this season for at least 6 years. The departures were, respectively, 1.4, 1.5, and 0.5 degrees Fahrenheit above the October to December averages for 1920 to 1924.

Since warm waters favor warm air and high humidities and, therefore, lower pressures and greater storminess, it is very easy to guess that these warm waters south, southeast, and now perhaps east of us, had something to do with the following extraordinary features of our weather during the past few months: (1) stormiest, cloudiest, coldest and snowiest October known generally over the United States from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic; (2) storminess and coldness of the southern plains and Mexico east to the south Atlantic coast November to January, including a very late tropical hurricane; (3) unprecedented disturbance of the North Atlantic and extraordinary snowiness of the North Atlantic states and Maritime Provinces from late January into March, 1926. Pressures in the mid-North Atlantic through February were extraordinarily low.

Of course, we cannot yet prove that these weather abnormalities were actually due to the warm waters, even in part; but if we were to specify ocean temperatures which would favor such weather, we should describe those observed.

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