

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt  
but intended for use  
March 20, 1926.

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed March 13, 1926

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks  
of Clark University

A DECIDEDLY MILD WINTER

Contrary to the widely published "forecasts" of a cold winter, there were mild periods interspersed by cold ones, rather than cold alleviated by mild. December was cold only in the Middle West and South. The Northeast was moderate, and the West mild, temperatures being up to 10 degree above normal in the Canadian Northwest and 6 above in southern California. January was much warmer, only the South feeling chilly. The Northwest stopped buying coal. The temperature departure map for February was all plus except in the heavily snow-covered Northeast.

The winter as a whole, December to February, inclusive, was warmer than the average over more than <sup>four-fifths</sup> of the United States and probably at least this proportion of the entire continent. The North Pacific region and Alaska were so mild that wild guessers tried to ascribe the warmth to submarine volcanic heating. On parts of the central and northern plains the winter, averaging up to over 12 degrees above normal, was the warmest in the 50-year period over which records have been kept.

Precipitation was in general above normal in the East and below in the West, with snowfall generally moderate to light for these three months. The North Atlantic region was an exception in this respect, though the virtual absence of snow till the first of February prevented even the great quantities in that month from making the winter's total much more than ordinary.

But winter has apparently been trying to make up a bit in March, which has been generally cold in the East, though still mild in the West. The accumulations of snow in the Northeast became unusual, Quebec having 54 inches on the ground and much of Maine and New Brunswick over 40 inches on March 8.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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