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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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GAS AND WEATHER

You might expect the output of a fuel company to depend very closely upon the temperature - the colder the greater the consumption of fuel. This is not the case with gas companies, however. Gas is used less widely than formerly for lighting purposes. It is consumed mainly in cooking stoves and hot water coils. Hence in the northern United States it is especially a hot weather fuel. Many families who use gas for cooking in summer revert to coal stoves in winter.

In a New England city of about 200,000 the daily send-out of gas runs from 3,500,000 to 4,000,000 cubic feet in summer but during the winter falls as low as 2,300,000 cubic feet per day. On especially cold days in winter the consumption increases slightly, for gas stoves are lighted to furnish additional warmth. Gas is used for auxiliary heating particularly in the spring and fall when the furnace fire is out. At these intermediate seasons, when gas serves both for cooking and heating the send-out is the largest. Canning is an additional factor in the fall, making September the month of highest consumption. October ranks second, then May.

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