

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt
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May 14, 1926

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed May 7, 1926

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QUEER CONTRASTS

If you have not seen the weather map for Thursday morning a week ago, guess what place north of Florida reported the highest temperature at 7 a.m. Wrong! Winnipeg, Manitoba, 72 degrees Fahrenheit. And the next warmest? Wrong! Marquette, Michigan, on the shores of Lake Superior, 70 degrees. And the coldest? St. Paul, Alaska, 28, and Baker, Oregon, Winnimucca, Nevada, and Flagstaff, Arizona, 30 degrees. What places were hottest the day before? Bismarck and Devil's Lake, North Dakota, 96 degrees Fahrenheit. Duluth and Escanaba, hot places during the hot wave of April, had temperatures in the high thirties to low fifties, with chilly winds off the Lakes. Incidentally, drought continued in the East, and flooding rains, 1 to 6.6 inches in 24 hours, resumed in Texas.

Bright sunshine during long clear days beating down on the dry ground of the northern plains appears to be responsible for the high temperatures there and at places farther east, like Marquette, where the warm wind apparently struck down to the ground after passing over the high lands of upper Michigan.

Under such conditions of mixed temperature distribution the isotherms, or lines of equal temperature, seem to be the longest lines that can be drawn between two points. On the morning in question the 60 degree isotherm entered the United States from central Mexico, ran northward fairly close to the 100th meridian to western Manitoba, turned about Winnipeg and ran nearly straight south on the 95th meridian to northeast Texas. Doubling back, it ran about north on the 92nd meridian to the upper Mississippi valley, backed around Peoria, Illinois, looped in part of the upper Lake region, then made a broad swing through the South, east of Ohio, but west of Nashville and through southern Georgia, passing off the coast between Savannah and Jacksonville, 6400 miles traversed to get 1100 miles from its entering point!

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