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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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NORTHWEST VS NORTHEAST SUMMER COOLNESS

One of the notable features of early summer cool spells of the northwest or northwind variety is the brevity of their duration. They can invade our middle latitudes only by dint of a very rapid rush out of the cold north a thousand or more miles away. The sun shines mercilessly for well over half of the 24 hours through the clear dry air, warming it to some extent directly but mostly indirectly by the radiation and conduction from the heated surface of the ground. An early temperature in the low forties must give way to one in the high sixties by mid-afternoon, from which level even the best cooling during the short night can hardly bring the temperature down to below 50 except in hollows. One more sunny day restores normal summer heat.

In the northeast type of chilly weather in summer, the temperatures cannot fall to the frosty levels reached after a day of strong winds from the northwest or north. But the temperatures can and do stay at an uncomfortably low level sometimes for two or three days. The air, coming off chilly waters not far away readily forms a cloud sunshield where it makes a contact with warmer air above, and reflects most of the sunlight back into space, without giving it a working chance. Temperatures which would be comfortable with strong sunshine may make us think of our lonely furnace on such cloudy days, even if, in our lazy hopefulness, we decide to expect fair and warmer instead of starting a fire.

With the first half of June past, we can now definitely shut down our house heating plants till the middle of September. That is, we may do so if we care to follow the example of central heating plants in Chicago, which operate till June 15 as a rule, and then lay off till September 15.

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