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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE FAR WEST SIZZLES

"Where is the weather hot?" inquired a New Englander who thought it about time for more than an occasional whiff of summer heat. "Out West", came the answer. The Pacific states have had one of the hottest springs and early summers on record. Places with a large share of marine influence in their climates do not normally have such weather as the Pacific slope has experienced this spring. Turning to any text book we find that one of the outstanding characteristics of a marine climate is the coolness of its springs and early summers. Such a designation fits the north Atlantic seaboard nicely this year, though we are supposed to have a climate more continental than marine.

Starting out so warm in spring, perhaps the coastal waters of the Pacific are still unusually warm. But this could be a matter of only a few degrees, while the heat on land has departed more from the normal. Probably the winds have been immediately responsible for giving the sun a favorable opportunity. High pressures in the north, favoring clear dry weather, and light to moderate northerly and northeasterly winds descending and moving coastwards from the heated interior plateaus, have been uncommonly frequent.

At Red Bluff, in northern California, the temperature maxima on 6 successive days were 94, 102, 104, 108, 108, and 80. One night the lowest temperature was 82. When the hot spell ended there were some terrific thunderstorms. In San Francisco one early morning storm is reported to have struck in a score of places, igniting four fires. Only one thunderstorm had occurred there in June during the entire 20-year period, 1904 to 1923.

During a hot spell last June a western editor remarked that the West commonly got hot two weeks after severe heat in the East. This may be so, but it evidently is not necessary for the East to be hot before the West can have its share of heat.

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