

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt  
but intended for use  
October 25, 1926

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed October 18, 1926

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks  
of Clark University

NORTH AMERICA RECEIVING ITS WINTER LOAD OF AIR

At this time of year North America is rapidly taking aboard its great, cold-season excess of air. From mid-summer to mid-winter the amount of air over North America as a whole increases by nearly one per cent. The equivalent of this in tons is too large to grasp: it is approximately two trillion tons. As the air cools off over the continent it contracts more rapidly than the air over the more slowly cooling land. The contrast being greatest in the more northern latitudes of our ing oceans, and this allows air from over the oceans to collect over the continent, the largest intake from the sea occurs there. But the tendency of the accumulated air to move southward and southeastward from time to time, places the center of greatest excess of pressure in winter in middle latitudes.

Highs, therefore, are becoming characteristic features of our autumn weather maps of the United States and Canada. And these highs seem to have an aversion for the sea. When they reach our eastern seaboard and begin drifting out over the warm Gulf Stream they commonly weaken. This makes the centers or ridges of highest pressure remain some days over the cold Appalachians as the great mass of air slowly drains southeastward and southward. Fair, quiet, pleasant weather prevails, in consequence.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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