

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt
but intended for use
February 8, 1927

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed February 1, 1927

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks
of Clark University

AN EARLY VIEW OF NEW ENGLAND CLIMATE

In December, 1621, Edward Winslow wrote to a friend in England declaring the worth of the Plymouth "plantation". Of the New England climate he says -

"For the temper of the air here, it agreeth well with that in England: and if there be any difference at all, this is somewhat hotter in summer. Some think it to be colder in winter: but I cannot, out of experience, so say. The air is very clear; and not foggy, as hath been reported. I never, in my life, remember a more seasonable year than we have here enjoyed..."

Perhaps this description is a bit flattering to New England weather, but we should remember Winslow was hoping to persuade his friend to come over on the next boat. Other Pilgrim accounts give more emphasis to the cold of the first winter in New England; for instance,

"Frost and foul weather hindered us much. This time of year seldom could we work half the week."

or,

"It blowed and did snow all that day and night; and froze withal, Some of our people that are dead, took the original of their death here."

The main differences between the climate of Old and New England are suggested though not sufficiently stressed; New England being far less equable and less moist than the British Isles. The mean temperature of London for mid-winter is between that of Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Va., and nearly 10 degrees Fahrenheit higher than that of the Plymouth region. Only 13 or 14 days a year with skating is the average at Regent's Park (in London); occasionally there are only 3 or 4 such days.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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