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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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HOT WEATHER AND THE BERMUDA HIGH

The hot, muggy weather of recent weeks in eastern North America has been, as usual, the result of an influx of warm, moist air from the ocean to the southeast. Barometric pressure, normally high in that quarter, has been somewhat higher than the average, affecting the prevailing winds.

The quasi-permanent barometric high or anticyclone of the subtropical North Atlantic Ocean is of vast extent, but there are comparatively few islands within its bounds from which meteorological reports can be regularly obtained. One of these is Bermuda. For many years the United States Weather Bureau has relied upon daily cablegrams from Bermuda for information as to whether pressure was rising or falling in the area as a whole, and thus it long ago became the custom to refer to the Atlantic anticyclone as the "Bermuda high."

Unfortunately the use of this expression in explaining summer hot spells led many people to suppose that the hot weather actually came from Bermuda. As a matter of fact the "still-vex'd Bermoothes" do not number intense heat among their vexations. Their climate is free from extremes of temperature in either direction. To prevent misunderstandings and consequent injury to the tourist trade, the Weather Bureau dropped the term "Bermuda high" from its vocabulary in the year 1916.

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