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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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AMERICAN FOGS

Fog is the aviator's worst weather handicap. Hence, with the rapid development of air routes, there is a growing demand for statistics of fog as an element of climate. The information on this subject as it relates to the United States and Canada is somewhat sketchy at present. The broad facts concerning the average distribution of fog and its variations with season are known, but there is need of much fuller knowledge concerning local fog conditions, as dependent, chiefly, upon topography.

American meteorologists define a "dense" fog as one that obscures objects at a distance of 1,000 feet, which is about the limiting density at which a fog begins to interfere with navigation by sea or air. Statistics of annual distribution show the greatest prevalence of fog along the Pacific coast, the Atlantic coast of New England and Canada, and over the central and southern Appalachian Mountains. The continental interior as a whole is a region of very little fog.

Some fog statistics just published for Lincoln, Nebraska, are fairly typical of midcontinental conditions. During the 20 years 1908-1927 dense fog was recorded on 116 days. This is an average of less than 6 days with dense fog each year. During the same period of years dense fog prevailed a total of 354 hours and 33 minutes. This averages about an hour of dense fog every three weeks. The foggiest month was February, with 92 hours of dense fog in 20 years, while none was ever recorded in May. Dense fogs formed most frequently during the early morning hours and none ever formed between 9 a.m. and noon. The longest continuous period of dense fog was 16 hours and 15 minutes.

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