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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed January 8, 1929

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JANUARY WEATHER

In the greater part of temperate North America January is, on an average, the coldest month of the year. It is normally colder than February, taking the latter month as^a/whole, though in most of the northeastern United States and eastern Canada the first week or so of February, in the average year, is as cold as any part of January or somewhat colder.

January is a month of rapid weather changes, owing to the fact that the barometric "lows", which bring us our ups and downs of temperature, alternations of clouds and sunshine and other atmospheric vicissitudes sweep across the continent more rapidly and appear in greater numbers during this month than during any other of the year. They also attain their largest average size, and many of them travel far to the southward, so that their effects are felt over great areas of the continent.

East of the Rockies the contrasts in temperature between northerly and southerly latitudes within the United States and Canada are now stronger than at any other season. Prof. R. DeC. Ward helps us to realize this situation by his often-quoted statement that "health-seekers and warmth-seekers find the average monthly temperature in January increasing at the rate of about a degree and a half for every hour of travel southward in a fast express train."

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