

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt
but intended for use
March 27, 1929

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed March 20, 1929

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CURIOUS WEATHER SAYINGS

Some weather proverbs and popular weather sayings are based on sound observation and common sense, others contain at least a grain of truth, while still others are wholly fantastic and nonsensical. In her book "Current Superstitions", published in 1896 under the auspices of the American Folk-Lore Society, Fanny D. Bergen has gathered a large number of weather sayings from different parts of the United States and British America, some of which are interesting on account of their extreme oddity. Here are a few examples:

The sun shines some part of every Saturday in the year but one. (New England.)

A load of hay passing means fair weather. (Massachusetts.)

A load of barrels foretells wet weather. (Massachusetts.)

If there is a star before the moon, the weather will be calm; if the star is behind the moon, the weather will be stormy. (Newfoundland.)

When a great many women are seen on the street, it will rain next day. (Massachusetts.)

Talking of horses is a sign of rain. (Labrador.)

Sparks on the bottom of the tea-kettle mean rain. (Maine.)

A broom falling across a doorway or chairs set crosswise is a sign of a storm. (New Hampshire.)

If a vessel is becalmed, throw a halfpenny overboard to buy wind. (Newfoundland.)

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Washington, D. C.