

Released on receipt  
but intended for use  
January 1, 1930.

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed December 24, 1929

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology

JANUARY WEATHER

January in the northern United States and southern Canada is a month of frequent and rapid weather changes. Examine a file of daily weather maps for this month in almost any past year, and you will see that the "lows" that bring us our ups and downs of temperature, alternations of clouds and sunshine, and other atmospheric vicissitudes are in swift movement across the country. There is no tendency to halt and stagnate, such as may be observed in the summer months. Statistics show that these traveling weather systems move at higher speed and hence arrive in more rapid succession at any given place in January than in any other month of the year. They also reach their largest average size, and many sweep far to the southward, so that their effects are felt over a wide area of the continent.

The proverb that "as the days begin to lengthen the cold begins to strengthen" of course does not mean what it says, as the downward trend of the annual temperature curve begins back in midsummer. What the proverb means and what is generally true is that the weather continues to grow colder after the winter solstice, despite the fact that the sun is now mounting higher in the sky and staying longer above the horizon. In most of temperate North America the normal date of the lowest temperature of the year is around the 18th of January.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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