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June 3, 1930.

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed May 27, 1930

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

A MEMORABLE JUNE

Writing of New England's remarkable weather experiences in the year 1816,  
Sidney Perley says:

"On the 5th of June the heat was extreme in every part of New England, but the next day was uncomfortably cold. On the morning of the 6th snow fell in Maine, New Hampshire and mountain towns in Massachusetts. Snow fell again on the 7th of June sufficient to cover the ground at Newton, Mass., and at Hopkinton, N.H., it was four inches deep on a level. At Salem, Mass., on Saturday the 8th there was a slight fall of snow, but not enough to make good sleighing. Along the northern portion of Massachusetts large icicles were pendent and the foliage of the forest trees was blasted by frosts. At Waterbury, Vt., snow began to fall on Friday night and continued on Saturday forenoon. In Williamstown it was 12 inches deep and in Cabot 18 inches."

The weather remained frigid until the 22d, when it suddenly went to the other extreme. On the 23d the thermometer registered 101 at Salem, Mass.--the hottest weather in ten years! In the same month there was a 3-inch snowfall in the interior of New York State and severe frosts prevailed as far south as Philadelphia.

Such was June in what has since been called "the year without a summer"--a name that ignores its occasional periods of intense heat.

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21st and B Sts.  
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