

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
March 11, 1932

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed March 4, 1932

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

COMES THE SPRING

Spring, according to the reckoning of astronomers, arrives punctually at the vernal equinox (March 20 or 21), even though winter may linger wantonly in its lap and the howling of blizzards belie its arrival. Spring as registered by thermometers makes no such sudden and regular appearance, but spreads gradually over the land in a series of waves, advancing and retreating - "each advance of warmer weather," as Prof. M.W. Harrington once expressed it, "penetrating a little further into the cold interior and each successive chilling halting a little north of the southern limit of its predecessor, until finally summer conditions are firmly established."

Harrington described and charted the progress of springtime warmth over the country in an article published many years ago in Harper's Magazine. Since that time another student of this process, Dr. A.D. Hopkins, has worked out an interesting law to express the way in which spring comes to eastern North America; especially as manifested in the responses of the plant and animal kingdoms to the rising tide of temperature. He tells us that it advances northward, eastward and upward at an average rate of one degree of latitude, five degrees of longitude and 400 feet of altitude every four days.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

-----  
SCIENCE SERVICE  
21st and Constitution Ave.  
Washington, D.C.