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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SCOTLAND'S SNOWLESS WINTER

Last fall, as a part of a patriotic movement in behalf of supporting home industries, the British press urged lovers of winter sports to make plans for pursuing these diversions in Scotland rather than in continental Europe, and in this connection the rash statement was made that there was "every sign of a hard winter." The people who believe in long-range weather signs probably explained their failure in this case on the ground that "all signs fail in a dry time." The early winter in Scotland was exceptionally mild; then came an extraordinarily long persistence of anticyclonic weather, with remarkably little precipitation either as rain or snow. Thus Scotland had an almost snowless winter. At the end of February Ben Nevis had only a light coating of snow on its upper 500 feet, as compared with a depth of six feet or so that, in a normal winter, covers the mountain from the summit down to far below the level mentioned.

Throughout Scotland, rivers generally in flood in winter were lower than they often are in midsummer, and, as a result, salmon fishing was a failure. Owing to the dryness of the country, great care was necessary to prevent accidental heath and gorse fires. A great advantage of the continued dry weather, however, was that all outdoor farm work became far advanced for the season.

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