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The climate when coal was formed! Some have thought that plants which later formed coal were grown in regions having a warm, rainy climate. Since, however, coal deposits depend upon an accumulation of plant material which later becomes coal due to pressure and heat, such an accumulation can occur only where growth is more rapid than decay. Such conditions are best met, it is thought, in a cool rather than a warm climate. So coal beds are believed to give evidence, not of a moist, tropical climate, but of a cool to cold climate, wet enough to be favorable for a rapid growth of swamp plants.
