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Weather history! Europe has experienced during the last 3000 years very decided changes in climate. About 1000 B.C., due to dry conditions, there was traffic over the Alps; but in 800 B.C., due to wet seasons, this was stopped. In 400 B.C., due to wet seasons, agriculture in Italy flourished and Rome prospered; later the climate became drier, and some attribute the decline of Roman power to a deterioration of climate in the peninsula. About the 5th century A.D. Ireland was much drier than at present; Christianity and culture flourished. In the 7th and 8th centuries, due to the dry conditions, traffic over the Alps was resumed. Iceland and Greenland were colonized then, but in the 13th and 14th centuries, due to the advance of ice, those Norse settlements were wiped out. --- (Any Time Release)