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Cold waves! All know what a cold wave is in its general aspects: it is a decided and quick fall in temperature to freezing or below. The weather scientists have definitions for them, fitting various regions. In New England a cold wave is a fall in temperature of at least 20 degrees in 24 hours, down to at least 10 degrees above zero Fahrenheit. Forecasting cold waves is one of the very important duties of the meteorologist, because many activities are directly interested in them, e.g., the fuel business. Cold waves are due to the outbreak of cold, heavy masses of dry air from northern Canada, flowing over the United States and southern Canada. They are accentuated if the ground is snow-covered or they come in on a high wind.

