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Coldest days! In most places in North America the coldest days do not occur on days of least hours of possible sunshine, that is, in December, but in January, or even in February in some localities. The reason for this lag is due in part to bodies of water near those localities, for it takes longer for water to cool off. For instance, at Detroit the lowest 1935 temperature was 3 below zero in February, while in the same winter at Des Moines it was 13 below in January. In some places March may sometimes have not only a lower minimum temperature than February, but also may have a lower average temperature. This happened at several stations in Montana and North Dakota during the winter of 1935.
