

December 5th the trades have been blowing constantly while the other weather elements too have been characteristic of the change in season. Dry season conditions prevailed here earlier (Nov. 10-20th) but the trades were then confined almost entirely to the Atlantic coast of the Isthmus. At present the trades are extending well beyond the Isthmus into Panama Bay although they are not as steady as on the Atlantic side.

This November was similar to the same month last year on the Isthmus in respect to rainfall, that is the Pacific coast was wetter than the Atlantic. Normally the Atlantic coast has double the rainfall of the Pacific side, in November.

At the Cristobal station the past month was the third driest November in 59 years of record; the monthly rainfall of nine inches (8.99") was but 40% of the normal. The mean monthly temperature as well as the absolute maximum exceeded all previous Novembers of record while the mean barometric pressure (29.79) was, with the single exception of October, 1926, the lowest on record.—*J. Henry Weber*, Cristobal, Dec. 10.

UNUSUAL FOG OBSERVATION AT NEW YORK CITY

At 10.25 a. m. December 14, 1929, a stratum of dense fog began to move out, leaving surface fog of uniform elevation about 350 feet. This surface layer remained about twenty minutes. In this period it was wonderful to note how completely obscured were the buildings and harbor craft below office windows, while above an unlimited sky was revealed.

At distance 3 to 5 miles southeastward from station there could be plainly outlined separate areas of denser cloud formation (resembling fracto-cumulus) within the surface fog. Beyond these and about 10 miles from station a cumulus cloud formation having base about 2000 feet, rose to height about 200 feet above the uniform elevation level of dense fog.

A rare and beautiful observation.—*G. J. O'Connor*.

WEATHER RECORDS EXPLAIN INCREASES IN LIGHTING BILLS

The Light and Power Department of Springfield, Ill., enclosed with its December, 1929, statements to customers cuts prepared from records of the local Weather Bureau Office showing the normal cloudiness of November and December and the cloudiness of the two months just passed, which was considerably in excess of the average. Below the cuts was stated "The charts above show the fair and cloudy days normally allotted to the two short-day months of November and December in contrast to what the two months have actually been. Your electric consumption will undoubtedly show a similar increase comparable to abnormal days of cloudiness." Use of official weather records, especially temperature and sunshine, is frequently made by public service companies in different parts of the country to explain abnormalities of bills.—Contributed by *C. J. Root*.