

THE PLATEAU HIGH

How firmly and persistently the so-called Plateau High has maintained itself during the past months of December and January may be seen by an examination of the daily Weather Maps for the period. The map for December 1st, shows the High well established with a central pressure of 30.50 inches. From then until the fifteenth no map shows a reading of less than 30.30 in. Following a few days of irregularity, pressure has risen by the twentieth to 30.40 in. and no lower readings are indicated for the rest of the month. A break during the first week in January is followed by the reestablishment of the High on the 8th. From then on to the time of writing (Feb. 2nd) the High seems to have remained fixed, the central pressure never falling below 30.20 in. and frequently rising to 30.60 in.—*N. H. Bangs.*

ORCHARD-HEATER SMOKE *

Last December a severe and unusually prolonged cold spell occurred in the citrus-growing districts of California. Orchard-heaters again proved their value in saving the fruit from the ravages of Jack Frost, but also spread a blanket of oily soot far beyond the limits of the citrus groves, causing even more than the usual amount of damage and irritation in the neighboring communities.

The problem of orchard-heater smoke is a perplexing one in California. The citrus fruit industry is the most important one in the state with the exception of the petroleum industry, and has an annual revenue running into the hundred millions. The growers have invested more than \$8,000,000 in orchard-heating equipment, without the aid of which the losses during severe frosts would have disastrous effects upon business conditions in general.

A mass meeting was recently held in Los Angeles to consider what should be done, in the way of legislation and otherwise, to diminish the smoke nuisance without crippling the citrus industry, and a committee was appointed to conduct appropriate investigations.—*C. F. Talman, in Why the Weather? (Science Service).*

Floyd D. Young, U. S. Weather Bureau fruit-frost forecaster at Pomona, Calif., writes that they had about 14 consecutive nights of temperature below the danger point, and that in consequence the agitation against the orchard heater smoke nuisance was causing citrus interests a lot of trouble.

JANUARY WARMTH

The prediction of a winter milder than usual for the Canadian Northwest has so far been borne out, according to reports from Winnipeg. River ice is melting, pussy willows are blooming and crows are returning as balmy breezes sweep the prairies of Western Canada, marking the mildest January on record. It is reported that golfers have started their springtime schedules in southern Alberta, with temperatures ranging up to 62 degrees above zero.

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 29.—Vancouver is experiencing the warmest January on record. There has been no snow here this season, with the exception of a premature flurry last fall.

* Cf. article on orchard heating, in Dec., 1930, BULLETIN.