

The big hotels on the Boardwalk at Atlantic City had nearly all taken out rain insurance for the holiday period. Concessions along the beach were similarly protected. The hotels, as a rule, insured themselves of receiving gross receipts of a certain amount and where these fell below the estimated amount, the insurance policy covered the difference. Almost 200 amusement places at Coney Island collected insurance because of last Tuesday's rain. Some of the peanut vendors had hundred dollar policies. The Giants at the Polo grounds had a \$30,000 policy.

In New York there were only three days in June when the weather was fair. The rest of the month it was either rainy or threatened rain. *Morning Sun*, Binghamton, N. Y., July 7.

#### CHICAGO

. . . The *Daily News* quotes the superintendent of the rain insurance department of one standard risk taking concern as saying jubilantly: "Local companies were certainly lucky on the Fourth of July. Our company had about \$400,000 worth of insurance against bad weather written for that day and I imagine the total amount written was near \$1,000,000. And the weather was fine." This suggests that the eternal law of compensation is steadily extending its operations. The weather is fair and you are happy. It rains and you cash in on your insurance policy.

The old but only moderately effective method of insuring fair weather by carrying one's umbrella downtown in the morning appeals to one because of its simplicity, but the plan of buying insurance against rain promises more substantial satisfaction. You plan to go on a picnic and so you conscientiously try to keep the sun shining by taking out rain insurance for the appointed day. It rains, nevertheless. Your wife's new hat is utterly ruined, but your temper resists the wetting marvelously, for you go on repeating to yourself, "Well, I am fully insured."

We talk much in these days about open-air people—golfers, motorists, fishermen, what not. If they are of the genuine sort they take the weather as it comes and are reasonably happy under any sort of meteorological barrage. If they should go in for weather insurance, could they be 100 per cent happy on a fine day?—*Daily News*, Chicago, July 8.

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#### Why Has the East Been Wet?

This season so far HIGHS form quite frequently to the north of us while last year they absolutely failed to materialize, hence the frequent Northerly winds now. Do you not think that these continued incursions of cold air from the North are the cause of so much local and general rain? There has been quite hot weather all over the South for some time past as shown on the weather maps and this air is being overturned by the *northerly cold air* as it approaches the area of low pressure where these winds meet. I have noticed that the upper cloud movements are inclined from a southerly direction, giving one the idea that the rain is being condensed out of the highly saturated warm, southerly air. Then again the rain is warm in comparison with the coolness of the North wind, in fact I have noticed a rise in temperature of a few degrees with the heavier showers, so warm is the rain.—*Douglas Manning*, *Alexandria Bay*, N. Y.

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#### Many Tornadoes in April.

Attention is called to the large number of tornadoes in April in different parts of the United States. Reports of these and many other interesting items are given in the April, 1922, *Monthly Weather Review*, copies of which may be obtained from the Supt. of Documents, at 15 cents per copy, or \$1.50 per year.

Hailstones big enough to break watermelons wide open, with a hail fall 12 inches deep in some places was reported from near Concord in the Piedmont section of North Carolina, Aug. 4, 1922.

At Montpelier, France, a hail storm covered the open ground with hail to a depth of about 10 centimeters. "In many streets rain overflowed and hail stones were caked together in lumps, being in some places some 50 or 60 centimeters deep. The traffic was blocked, and clearing . . . was necessary as after a blizzard."—*Met. Mag.*, June, 1922, p. 131, photo.

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#### Clouds and Local Showers Form Over Burning Gas Well.\*

What is perhaps the largest gas well in the world, located 10 miles north of El Dorado, Ark., "blew in" on Sunday night, May 7. The well caught fire the next day. On the afternoon of May 10 a lazy, whitish looking cloud formed immediately over the burning well and very shortly after this clouds began to gather to this spot from all directions. Further observations were prevented by a severe storm. No rain was reported from any station in the State on the morning of the 11th except this shower over the oil well. The shower seems to have been local and due to the large mass of heated air that was forced upward to a great height by the intense heat of the burning gas. The rain did not put the fire out. The well was ignited again by lightning about the last of June and was still burning July 11th. On July 5th a single white cloud hovered directly over the fire all day long.—*J. J. Babb*, Cotton Region Observer.

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In humid weather, clouds are often seen forming on the tops of smoke columns from large industrial plants in Worcester, Mass.

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#### TEMPERATURE INVERSIONS IN BRICK BUILDINGS ON A HOT DAY.

Early in the afternoon of July 12, 1922, following eight hours of bright sunshine and with the air temperature outside at 88° to 89°, a sling psychrometer was used to obtain temperatures in two of the brick buildings at Clark University. In the Main Building the temperature in the basement (a few windows open) was 74°. In the first floor rooms 77°; second floor room, windows closed, 75°; top floor, under hot, tar roof, windows open, 84° to 86° on the windward side, 83° to 84° on the leeward side. In the Library Building the temperature in the basement was 66°; first floor, 67° in a closed room to 75° in a partially opened one; second floor (windows open) 79° to 80°, (closed 76°); top floor, (closed) under light colored slate roof, 85°. At the foot of the basement stairs in the Library dew was forming on the walls and outside of the door, although the air in the closed part was relatively dry. The dewpoint of the open air was 72, that at the foot of the basement stairs 66, and that in the cellar 62. It is clear that to keep the basement from "sweating" the doors and windows should be kept closed tight.

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\* Cf. A group of articles on clouds over fires in the *Monthly Weather Review*, March, 1919, 47: pp. 143-149, 7 illus.