After lying on the ground all winter, the drifted snow is so highly compressed that a cubic yard weighs approximately 380 lbs., though the weight varies from lighter at the top to heavier at the base of the accumulation. If this figure, 380 lbs., is used, the total weight of the snow handled becomes roughly 22,500 tons.

WINTER—THEN AND NOW

It is a common notion that the seasons are changing, that they do not have the severe winters they did 50 or more years ago, notwithstanding the fact that meteorological records have been brought forth to prove that they are not changing. Probably when our present elderly people were children they heard the same thing, and the youngsters of today will no doubt make similar statements 50 years hence.

As long ago as 1787 Thomas Jefferson, in writing of the climate of Virginia, said:

"A change in our climate, however, is taking place very sensibly, heats and colds are become much more moderate within the memory even of the middle-aged. Snows are less frequent and less deep. They do not often lie, below the mountains, more than one, two, or three days, and very rarely a week. They are remembered to have been formerly frequent, deep, and of long continuance. The elderly inform me that the earth used to be covered with snow about three months in every year. The rivers, which then seldom failed to freeze over in the course of the winter, scarcely ever do so now. This change has produced an unfortunate fluctuation between heat and cold, in the spring of the year, which is very fatal to fruits. From the year 1741 to 1769, an interval of twenty-eight years, there was no instance of fruit killed by the frost in the neighborhood of Monticello. An intense cold, produced by the constant snows, kept the buds locked up till the buds could obtain, in the spring of the year, so fixed an ascendancy as to dissolve those snows, and protect the buds, during their development, from every danger of returning cold. The accumulated snows of the winter remaining to be dissolved all together in the spring, produced those overflowings of our rivers, so frequent then, and so rare now."—*Clarence J. Root*, Weather Bureau, Springfield, Ill.

FIFTH SUCCESSIVE FAVORABLE MONSOON PROBABLE IN INDIA

For the fifth successive year, reports from India indicate that the monsoon, or rainy season, will be favorable. A cable received on August 23 from Trade Commissioner C. B. Spofford, Calcutta, states that to date rainfall was slightly above normal on the northwest frontier, and in Rajputana, Central India, the Central Provinces, Hyderabad and Madras; and normal throughout all other regions. It is still blowing actively and the Indian Government forecast for August and September indicates normal rainfall in northwest India and normal or excess on the peninsula.

The importance of the Indian monsoon, which commences to blow about April each year, and, if favorable, continues until October, is well known to importers and exporters interested in the Indian market. The monsoon is to India was the annual overflow of the Nile is to Egypt. If

it is favorable, that is, if the rainfall is plentiful and widely distributed, and not too precipitate, a year of plenty is assured. If it fails, a business depression is sure to follow, as crops will be short, and the large agricultural element, which it is estimated makes up from 80 to 90 per cent of the total population, restricts its purchases to bare necessities. In days gone by a failure of the monsoon meant famine, in which thousands and even millions died from hunger and pestilence. Such disasters could hardly happen in modern India, as the country's transportation facilities and other agencies are too well organized to cope with such emergencies, but the effect of an unfavorable monsoon is still extremely severe.

Every walk of Indian life is vitally affected by the monsoon. Every individual, whether farmer, banker, manufacturer, foreign trader, merchant, bazaar dealer, or laborer watches eagerly for the coming of the monsoon and discusses its progress with the greatest interest. The whole business community remains in a state of uncertainty until the success or failure of the rains is established. Mill operators are slow to make plans, importers hold off placing orders, and exporters mark time. Merchants hesitate even to order necessities, knowing that scant rains mean little business during the coming year; and the farmer hoards gold and silver against the "rainless day."

When the rains subside in October, and it becomes generally known that they have been widespread and general, the community becomes light-hearted, the stock market becomes active, merchants commence placing orders, and the buying public loosens its purse strings. Representatives of foreign manufacturers pour in at the main ports and spread to the business centers.

It happens that the buying season in India is also the most favorable time to visit the country, from the standpoint of personal comfort. During the winter season, which commences about the middle of November in Calcutta, and rather later in central and southern India, and lasts until March, travellers are fairly comfortable. Travellers, therefore, should arrive in India not earlier than the first of October and plan to leave in March. In Madras the months from October to December are very wet, and trips to that place should be made during the first three months of the year.—*Repr. from Commerce Reports for* Sept. 6, 1926.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NOTE ON THE CROP SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES, SEPT. 1, 1926

As a general rule the country over, crops have made slow progress this season, this largely on account of unfavorable weather, it being either very dry or excessively wet at critical periods; but the prospect for livestock, coupled with an outlook for a fairly well balanced production of food and feed crops, is favorable, says the department's September 1 report on the farm situation.