

Our August "Cold Wave."

CHICAGO LETTER.

CHICAGO, Aug. 11.—Mr. Vennor, the great American weather prophet, has very certainly hit the nail on the head for once in his life. Along last winter he prophesied that we would have a cold, rainy spell during the month of August, carrying around a heavy overcoat and sleeping under two blankets, and then to come near freezing, seems a little unusual for the first of August; but as Hop Price used to say, "it is so."

ARRIVAL OF A COLD WAVE.

NORTH ADAMS, Mass., Aug. 19.—A cold wave has struck North Adams this morning. For several days past the heat has been very oppressive, but a sudden change has taken place. Cool and invigorating breezes are this morning blowing from the Berkshire Hills, and all seem to gain new life and vigor under their exhilarating influences.

We do not, however, regard the warm season as ended. These refreshing breezes will soon give place to sultry days and intense heat, and many will yet flee to the tops of Greylock and Hoosac mountains and other places of equal promise, in order to escape the heat that is yet to come. We are fortunate in being able to find delightful retreats for rest and coolness by travelling a short distance.

THE CHILLY WEATHER.—Yesterday was one of the coldest days of the season, the thermometer only being about 50° degrees in the morning and rising to only between 60° and 70° during the day. Many persons complained of a chilliness unusual in the month of August.—*Toronto, Aug 19*

FROST.

HALIFAX, Aug. 21.—A slight frost occurred here last night.

SHERBROOKE, Quebec, Aug. 21.—Reports from various parts of the surrounding country say that a sharp frost last night did great damage to crops in every direction.

CORRY, Pa., Aug. 20.—A heavy white frost fell in this region last night. There was no apparent damage to vegetation.

Frosts through New York State, Maine and Massachusetts same dates.

Chicago and Cincinnati continued warm through this cool period.

Three days and three nights rain in Texas.

The Eastern Illinois, Marshall, remarks:

The New York Observer says that Vennor is a humbug. That is cheap talk, but we fear the Observer has not carefully observed the weather.

So far as Vennor's predictions for this summer are concerned, they have been in the main verified. It may be said that any fool can safely say there will be rains and sunshine and that they are inevitable. But frosts in August are not common. Yet we had a frost this week and Vennor predicted frost in August. He ran a good deal of risk to guess at the frost at this time of year without any substantial reason.

The weather of the Island of Montreal continues decidedly unseasonable, and its effect is being shown in the scarcity of Garden produce. There is so little continuous dry weather that vegetables are extremely backward in coming forward, and scarcity and consequent dearthness is the result. Two weeks ago, tomatoes, which it is well known are usually a prolific crop in Montreal could be bought for one dollar a bushel, to-day they range from \$2.50 to \$3.00, while potatoes, which on Tuesday last were quoted at one dollar a barrel, are worth from \$1.75 to \$2 a barrel to-day. The present prospects indicate a rather unfavorable outlook for cheap vegetables during the coming winter.—*Montreal Star, Aug. 24*

The August Snow Cloud on the Lake.

Capt. Stine and other officers of the propeller "Menominee," report a singular thing outside. On Tuesday night last (Aug 8)—the same night, by the way, that the reflection of the North Side Rolling mills was seen all the way across Lake Michigan—when the "Menominee" was in midlake, a thick, cold cloud swept over the water and burst over the steamer, or the steamer burst the cloud, and her decks were covered with snow and clush to the depth of six inches. The "Menominee" was moving at the time at a speed of about 14 miles an hour. For five minutes the atmosphere was like that of winter, and with snow on them and on deck, the officers felt as if the boat had suddenly plunged into winter. At the expiration of the five minutes, when the boat had passed out of the polar wave, the atmosphere became warm and summer suddenly again set in. Capt. Stine and his officers and passengers were greatly puzzled at the phenomenon. Snow in this latitude in August is something wholly unprecedented.

The cloud or polar wave, or whatever it may be termed, was accompanied by a roaring sound, though the wind was by no means high or swift at the time, and numerous gulls hovered around the vessel, shrieked a dismal chorus, and whirled away. One great fellow perched upon the pilot house and remained several minutes. The melancholy birds seemed to be travelling with the storm as a part of it. The scene was awe inspiring and grand. For the time being the passengers were startled, if not really alarmed. Following this phenomenon there has been northerly winds the past two or three days, and weather that was colder than many of the oldest navigators ever experienced before in summer time. It was "real cool" in the city as all are aware, but outside on the lake vessel masters say the weather was like November.

The Weather.

The storms predicted in our August BULLETIN, for the 17th and 18th of the month, appeared to have occurred on the 15th, as the following records will show:

MADISON, Wis., Aug. 15th. A fierce rain, wind and hail storm swept over this section last night. It lasted in its great severity from 10 p.m. to 6.30 a.m., the most severe outbursts occurring after midnight. The wind reached a velocity of fifty miles an hour, and the rainfall between dusk and dawn was three and one half inches. The storm came from the west and north-north-west, passing between Fourth and Second Lakes right over the city. In the town trees were stripped of leaves and branches, the gardens were despoiled, streets gullied, low lands flooded and the lakes rose one foot. The hail broke in many windows of houses on Fourth Lake ridge, and the storm was so severe that several families retired to the cellars, fearing their houses would be blown down or carried off. West and east of the city crops were badly damaged, fields covered with wheat shocks were despoiled, corn and standing small grains were laid flat, and hundreds of acres of tobacco in Dane County were riddled and wholly spoiled. Many of the principle fields were insured in hail insurance companies, and the German American Company of St. Paul will lose heavily. At Cross Plains, a neighboring village west of here on the Prairie Du Chien Division of the St. Paul, two bridges were washed away, and two trains, one passenger and one freight, which had been run in there for safety, are imprisoned, but will be enabled to reach Madison some time during to-night. Seven freight cars standing on one of the bridges were washed away and

are a wreck. Telegraph lines are all down west of Cross Plains, so that no news of damage beyond, is attainable. Trains, except on the Prairie du Chien Division, from the west are all on time to-day. At Devil's Lake five inches of water fell on the camp ground of the Third Battalion of State Militia, and they had recourse to the higher land. At Portage la Proue, and Watertown there was heavy rain but no hail.

BANGOR, Me., Aug. 15.—A furious tornado visited this vicinity this evening, reaching this city about 6 o'clock. The wind blew with terrific velocity, the rain fell in sheets, converting the streets into streams, the whole accompanied by incessant thunder and lightning. The destruction of property is very great, buildings being blown down, roofs taken off, chimneys demolished, and signs and awnings carried away. The spire of the Universalist Church was blown to the ground and the roof of the country court house was taken off. The interior of the Bangor house was injured by the chimney falling through, and the European and North American Railway car-sheds were blown down and imprisoned a train of cars. Several ice-houses were badly damaged. Hundreds of chimneys went over, and the business streets are almost impassable.

Lightning struck the stable adjoining Maxfield's wool factory, and set it on fire. St. John's Church was struck, but not much damaged. A set of buildings in Veasie were destroyed by fire during the storm. A vast amount of damage is done to the crops in the vicinity. The storm was local and only covered a small territory. An estimate is difficult now, but the loss will amount to between \$50,000 or \$100,000.

MENDOTA, Ill., Aug. 15.—A remarkably severe thunderstorm, accompanied by a violent gale of wind and a perfect deluge of rain, visited this section of the country to-day. Lightning struck several places in this neighborhood. The only serious damage done, however, besides a few severe shocks to persons in the immediate vicinity of the storm, was the burning of Henry Corkin's barn. The horses were got out. Loss about one thousand dollars, insured for three hundred in the Farmers' Mutual. The same fluid struck the smokestacks of Gregg's flour mill and Fay's Rendering Establishment. From the barn to Fay's chimney is over three miles, but, taking in the mill, the fluid must have taken a course similar to a horseshoe, extending the circuit about five miles from southwest to southeast of this point, covering an area of about ten to twelve miles square. Corn is said to have been laid level with the ground. It is hoped, however that much of it will get up again.

ATCHISON, Kas., Aug. 15.—A terrific thunder storm passed over the Central Branch country west of here, this morning. The storm extended from Corning to Irving. At Corning, John Baker and two daughters were instantly killed by lightning, the elder, aged 15 years, standing in the doorway carrying a two-year-old baby in her arms when the bolt fell killing the two of them. At Vermillion the store of Haskell & Co. was struck and much damaged. The storm was also very severe along the Atchison & Nebraska Road, north of the city. A heavy rain fell. There are no reports of any injury to crops. The rain was beginning to be needed. At this city there was no storm, but frequent showers occurred during the morning.

STERLING, Kas., Aug. 15.—A severe thunder storm, accompanied with hail and heavy wind, passed over this section this afternoon. The wind did great damage to buildings, smokestacks, etc. A new boarding house 150 feet long and the Sterling Sugar Works were demolished. Hail probably did damage in the country. Two inches of water fell, which will greatly benefit corn, which needed rain badly.