

Almanac. Though familiar with Mr. Smith's methods of weather forecasting, it was with great diffidence that I entered on the work. The probabilities given week by week, and the forecasts by month, are therefore calculated by myself, and are the result of careful computations on the Astro-Meteorological system, which proved so successful in the hands of the late Mr. Smith.

If the probabilities be found at variance with the actual weather, I beg the public to believe that the fault is in me, and not in the system. Astro-Meteorology, or the planetary positions for every day in the year, is the general basis on which the forecasts in this work are built. Though for many years familiar with the basis of the system, and in close touch with Mr. Smith since his arrival in Canada, I may misinterpret at times; but the broad facts are ever patent to the careful observer, that it is the exponent of the system who is in error, and not the system itself. Those who are inclined to think that weather forecasting is pure guess-work, will doubtless be surprised to learn that my probabilities for 1896 were in the hands of the printer on the first of August, 1895. Let those of my readers who are sceptical of the lines on which I work try their skill at forecasting for, say, a month in advance. The chances are that after a trial they will be more indulgent to errors on the part of those who are working out the weather problem on scientific grounds.

In conclusion, I repeat that though I may make mistakes at the outset, the success of the system in the past encourages me to proceed, and because I feel that the weather is a subject of vast import to toiling millions on this Continent, and worthy the most studious attention of thoughtful minds, and should the forecasts prove fairly successful this year, I hope to continue them next.

JAMES H. OXLEY.

MONTREAL,
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