

Mr. Wood reports from Shawano, Wis., July, 1887, to have been the hottest July in 20 years there. Comparative mean temperature as follows: 86°13' in 1887; 84°17' in 1886; 83°18' in 1885, and 80°11' in 1884. Min. 73° on 14th; max. 99° on 15th. The lowest and highest noon record was consequently on the 14th and 15th. Comparative July rainfall 2½ inches in 1887; 1 inch in 1886; 4½ inches in 1885 and 7½ inches in 1884. Some 40 miles South where an unusual drouth has prevailed for several months the mean for the month was 90°.

Prof. Forbes, Illinois State Entomologist, predicts lots of chinch bugs next Summer.

Thousands of dollars damage was done by a storm in West Virginia on the evening of July 20.

Baltimore was visited by violent storms on July 18-19. Houses were unroofed.

July 17 proved to be the hottest day in Toronto, Ont., for several years, the thermometer ranging from 97° to 104° in the shade.

New York Bay experienced a tornado on July 15. Great damage was done at Brooklyn.

Kingston, Ont., and neighborhood, was ravaged by a storm of great severity on July 16. Hailstones of great size fell and houses were unroofed.

At Joliet, Ill., on July 17 it was 113° in the shade. Fourteen convicts in the state prison were overcome by the heat and two died.

Mr. Horne reports from New Hampshire that July was very hot, with heavy precipitation. Farmers were put to considerable straits to save their hay. As it was there was a good deal spoiled.

The United States Signal Service has adopted two new storm signals. All they have to do now is to hoist them at the proper times.

Disastrous forest fires have ravaged Cape Breton, N.S. One hundred square miles has been devastated. There has also been a water famine there.

A cyclone was felt over part of the South of France on August 16. Several persons were killed.

Crops along the lower St. Lawrence, from Levis to Dalhousie, have suffered seriously from drouth.

Terrific heat was recorded over the United States on July 17, where temperatures of over 100° in the shade were the rule. Fifty-eight cases of sunstroke were reported that day at Chicago alone, where the thermometer registered 104°. At St. Louis the temperature was the same and 11 cases of sunstroke were reported. At Louisville, Ky., 8 fatal cases, at New York 9 cases, Philadelphia 18 deaths and Richmond, Va., 6 deaths. South Carolina and Georgia also suffered.

Wheelock, W. Va., reported continuous heavy storms during the first ten days of June. So much wet weather not known in June for a dozen years. This was one of the "streaks of rain" anticipated.

A tornado formed about 10 miles West of Salina, Kans., on June 8. At least one dwelling was destroyed.

Severe shocks of earthquake occurred in Turkestan during the second week of June.

A very heavy thunderstorm caused serious washouts in the neighborhood of Abercorn, Que., on June 3rd. The storm only extended over a narrow strip. My forecast read, "fine, hot weather, too dry in places, frequent thunder storms in others."

The rainfall during April, this year, varied considerably over the Dominion. In Manitoba, E. and N.E. Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward's Island, it slightly exceeded the average. In other parts it was in deficit.

The Canadian Meteorological Service issued 561 predictions during April this year, of which 407 were fully verified, or 72.5 per cent.

The Minnesota Signal Service is pursuing a series of investigations upon thunder storms.

At Prince Albert, N.W.T., on May 13, nearly a foot of snow fell. Garden truck, then far advanced, was quite covered up.

The hottest day in the history of Milwaukee, Wis., occurred on July 16, when 100° in the shade was reached. There had previously been a long period of hot, dry weather. Three deaths from sunstroke were reported. One more link in my correct forecast chain. Milwaukee's previous very hot days were: August 5, 1881, 96½°; August 4, 1881, 95½°; July 16 and 17, 1878, 95°; July 25 and 28, 1886, 95°.

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PLANETARY INFLUENCES NO MYTH.

[26.] Enclosed please find \$1.00 for my subscription to *ASTRONOMY AND METEOROLOGY*. I am very highly impressed with the publication and wish you and it every success. There is no doubt in my mind but that planetary influence predominates to a great extent in our weather conditions, and exercises vaster powers than many imagine, not only over the weather, but the conditions of life, seismic movements, etc.

Ottawa.

H. B. S.

WILL ATMOSPHERIC CONCUSSION DESTROY LIFE GERMS?

[27.] I have heard it stated as a fact that if eggs are carried into a blacksmith's shop and placed near an anvil when work is going on, the eggs will not hatch out. The theory is that the jarring of the anvil injures the germ. I have never tested this, but have noticed in seasons when this locality has had much electrical disturbances and violent thunder storms, frequent and heavy; that my cabbage crop has suffered much less from insects. If so, might not some such effect be produced by the discharge of cannon in fields where insects are depositing their eggs? After an insect is hatched, unless it was fired out of a cannon, the concussion would likely have little effect on it. Please tell me if you think I have grounds for this idea.

Charleston, S. C. H. M. SIMMONS.

Ans.—This question was submitted to Mr. F. B. Caulfield, a well known entomologist of this city. He remarked: "I believe there may be something in it. It is a well known fact that severe thunder storms kill the germs in the eggs of birds. I never heard of the anvil theory before, which is very ingenious. If it could be proved true, it might be made of great use. Experiments, if tried, would be watched with interest."

RECOMMENDING ITSELF WELL.

[28.] Your *Almanac* is recommending itself well here. Its announcement of "a decidedly cooler change" recently, came up precisely on time, there being frost reported from various parts of this State. Along the low levels some of the most tender plants were nipped.

Virginia.

L. J. H.

HOPES IT WILL SUCCEED.

[29.] Enclosed please find \$2.00 for copies of *ASTRONOMY AND METEOROLOGY*. We are well pleased with it and hope you will succeed in getting the amount required.

Magog, Que.

(Mrs.) E. L. C.