

clouds and winds, or absorbed in the evaporation of rain. The average minimum temperatures of every ten days of May and June, 1903, were respectively 37.8° , 51.8° , 51.1° , 52.6° , 51.8° and 53.3° ; while the corresponding maximum temperatures were 67.7° , 81.1° , 70.8° , 80.5° , 67.8° and 71.1° . It was in May that the most rapid rise in minimum temperature took place, namely that from about 40° to about 50° during the middle of May, 1903, and the latter part of May, 1902.

Comparing now the rainfall of the two seasons, we find that there is a marked difference in the amount and still more in the distribution of precipitation. In 1902 it amounted during the four months under consideration to 12.32 in.; in 1903 to 8.97 in. Or, leaving out of account the last third of June, which my plant-observations do not cover, 10.65 in. and 5.06 in.; that is more than twice as much rain in 1902 as in 1903 for the period covered by my observations. In 1902 the rain was well distributed, being for March, April, May and the first two thirds of June 3.47, 2.74, 1.82 and 2.62 inches respectively, which is not very different from the average for 20 years. But in 1903 the figures are 1.35, .95, .12 and 2.64 inches. In 1903, therefore, there was comparatively little precipitation in the spring before June, and next to none in May; and even in June the rain did not fall in any appreciable amount until the 12th, when it rained 1.59 inches and continued rainy throughout the rest of the month. Furthermore, there was no rain in April after the 7th. In fact from the 8th April to the 11th June inclusive there fell only .22 in. of rain! That period, therefore, of over two months' duration, was literally one long drouth. Occurring as it did, however, so early in the year, when the ground was saturated with the winter snows, its effect was, as we have seen, to force vegetation forward rather than to retard it, *until towards the end of the drouth*. For we found that, in spite of the fact that the weather continued warmer, and indeed increasingly warmer in the first part of June, 1903, as compared with 1902, yet there was an actual falling off in the lead of 1903 over 1902 in plant-growth during that period, when the average daily temperature was 7° higher in 1903.

I was not surprised at this result, as I remember noticing the blighting effect of the drouth on certain of our wild plants. I