

Blossom Time in January - New York, 1919

Somehow the Weather Man Got His Dates Mixed This Winter, and the Trees Began to Bud Two Months Ahead of Their Schedule

TREES budded in the city's parks last week, and the dandelions showed themselves on the lawns of the Cathedral of St. John. It was January, but down at the Weather Bureau was recorded a story of Spring-time. For two weeks, said the statistician last Wednesday, the average temperature had been 39 degrees. The normal temperature for March is 38 degrees. So at the end of January we were just on the verge of entering into April. It may be remembered that on Jan. 1 the temperature was 50 degrees. That is four degrees above the normal temperature for a day in the middle of April.

The prolonged Springlike period came along on Jan. 14. Up to that time the weather, though at intervals far from severe, was not abnormal in warmth. The normal temperature for the month of January, as computed over the range of years that the Weather Bureau has been in existence, is 30 degrees.

Taken altogether, the warm Winter has been remarkable, though not unprecedented. According to the records at the Weather Bureau, January, 1906, had an average temperature of 37.3 degrees; January, 1880, a temperature of 39.8 degrees; January, 1913, 40 degrees,



It Feels Like April to the Squirrel and His Friend.

and January, 1890, a record of 40.2 degrees.

As to snowfall, this year has ranked lowest in the reports of the bureau. Last

year was, of course, unusual. The figures for the months of December and January of 1917-1918 showed a depth exceeding twenty-five inches. In January alone there were 13.6 inches of snow. This year the figures for January are .3 inch, with .4 inch for December, or a total of .7 for the two months. The year 1914 holds the record for the smallest amount of snowfall heretofore, with a depth of 1.5 inches; 1915 came next with 6.4 inches, and 1916 with 8.8 inches.

Forecasts that the warm weather would continue were issued as January neared its end. The prevailing winds had a strong southerly component in them, to a degree far above the normal. During the severe Winter of last year

there were no southerly winds recorded in the entire month of January. The year before had only one record of a southerly wind. During 1916, which was also an unusually warm Winter, the prevailing winds were southwest. At that time the average temperature for January was 35.4 degrees, or 5.4 above normal.

The interior of the country also has had a warm wave. The temperature in the Mississippi Valley since Jan. 1 has been really phenomenal, and the farmers there are in a quandary about their Spring planting. Hereabout the farmers have reported that there has not been a frost for weeks and that some of them are already preparing for actual work.



Photos by Brown Brothers.

Marbles in Morningside Park, Instead of Sleds and Snowballs.



Tea on the Roof in January—A Daily Scene on Top of an Apartment House Opposite Teachers College.