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**WHY WE HAVE
INDIAN SUMMER**

It Does Not Occur as Regularly as Many People Argue—About One in Four Years

Why and what is Indian summer? There is more of tradition and less of fact about Indian summer than any other season of the year. Indian summer seems to be an accident of nature, pure and simple—and it has just the same chance of being repeated from year to year as any other accident, and no more!

The facts about Indian summer, briefly are these:

The latter part of September is, as every one knows, noted for its severe wind and rain storms. People call these the "equinoxes" and other names. The storms are often very destructive. The sun has crossed the meridian and the temperature is beginning to go down. The influence of the sun on general weather conditions is now known to be very great. Therefore, at the time when the season of warm weather is changing to a season of colder weather, it is only natural that there should be more or less storm-and-stress in the atmosphere.

When we have several days of high winds and heavy rains it is also natural that the temperature should go down. As with all things of nature, the winds and the rains soon exhaust themselves and a dry period of sun shine succeeds.

The contrast between the cold, dreary, rainy, wind-blown days and bright, sunny, dry days is most marked, of course. And it is especially marked in the autumn. The air is dry and filled with smoke and dust which makes it hazy in the extreme. Besides that, as the period is immediately following a severe atmospheric disturbance, there is little, or no movement in the air and the tendency of the air-currents is downward from great atmospheric heights rather than horizontally across the face of the earth. Such is the explanation for the condition we call "Indian summer."

The experts of the weather bureau however, made an investigation of the subject and they found that in a period of 41 years there had been but 9 years when there was a really marked Indian summer! In 12 years there was a slight change that could be called by that name, and during eight years there was absolutely a time that could be termed unusual enough to be noted. During the remainder of the years there was more or less of a change, but it was not worth recording. Weather experts declare that the same kind of weather as is experienced in the fall and called Indian summer could and does occur any other time of the year.

Some very pretty stories have been woven about the period which has been called Indian summer because of an old Indian legend dealing with it. It seems, according to this, that a great Indian named Mudjekewis with his nine brothers, subdued a chieftain known as Mammoth Bear and captured the Sacred Belt of Wampum. Because he was the leader in the expedition, although the youngest of the brothers, Mudjekewis was given by the gods the government of the winds and was renamed Kabegur—"Father of the Winds." He had four sons and on one of them, Shawon dasee, he bestowed the government of the south winds. Shawondasee was rather a lazy sort of a man who liked best to take his ease and live a calm, peaceful life. He always kept his eyes toward the north, however, and the Indians all believed that it was his sighs of contentment that caused balmy southern airs to blow which make Indian summer.

In England Indian summer is generally known as St. Martin's summer, and in Germany and other sections of Europe it has other names.

CLIMATE AND TOBACCO

The Atmosphere Has Marked Effect Upon the Weed

If your tobacco begins to mildew, don't throw it away. It can easily be restored. But the whole of it must be treated, as one spot of mildew is sufficient to taint a whole tin or jarful. Lay the tobacco on some muslin, and hold the muslin over the spout of a kettle for a minute. The steam will kill the fungus, and when the tobacco dries it will be as good as ever.

If your tobacco, instead of mildewing, has turned dry and brittle, use a spray. A perfume spray costs only a few pence at a chemist's. Load it with cold water, and spray the tobacco gently, having first strewn it out evenly on a flat surface.

If, when you are at the seaside, you find that your favorite cigars or cigarettes have "gone off," do not blame the local tobaccoist. The salt in it makes cigars and cigarettes "sick," to use the technical phrase. Many naval men stationed in the tropics pack their cigarettes and cigars in tea, which absorbs the salt moisture of the air.

CANADA'S MINES

Coal Our Most Important Product With Silver Next

Particularly fortunate in its great store of mineral wealth is Canada. From this storehouse is being drawn an increasing and seemingly unending output of minerals. Before the year 1890 mineral production in Canada was comparatively small. In 1890 however, the production of all mineral exceeded 15 million dollars or a production of \$3.50 per capita. The mineral output from that time showed a phenomenal development, increasing by 1900 more than three and a half times to a total exceeding 64 millions. Now, however, this figure has been more than doubled, the present total production being more than 133 million dollars, or \$18 for every man woman and child in the Dominion. Of the metals, silver is the most important in value, followed by pig iron, nickel, copper and gold, but the non-metal mineral product, coal, exceeds in value any of the metals, the yearly output of coal amounting to about \$26,000,000.

The "Prison of Silence"

Republican Portugal still tolerates a prison whose carefully-planned, diabolical torture is enough to make prison reformers turn in their graves.

In this prison, called the "Prison of Silence," in a grim castle on the outskirts of Lisbon, nearly everything that human ingenuity can suggest to terrify the prisoners is done. The corridors, piled tier on tier five storeys high, extend from a common centre like the spokes of a huge wheel.

The cells are narrow and tomb like, and within each stands a coffin. The attendants creep about in felt slippers. No one is allowed to utter a word. The silence is that of the grave. Once a day the cell doors are unlocked, and the half a thousand wretches march out clothed in shrouds and with faces covered by masks, for it is part of this hideous punishment that none may look upon the countenance of his fellow-prisoners. Few of them endure this torture for more than ten years.



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