

Lore of Weather Signs "HOOSIERISMS"

SOME PROVERBS AND WISE OLD SAWS

For the purpose of separating the true from the untrue weather sayings, the United States government officials have recently made a comprehensive investigation of English weather lore, and have published the traditions which may be of truthful guidance to an American. They have raked over the whole language and separated the wheat from the chaff. In addition they have printed laws which they themselves have enacted to govern their predictions. The work has been done under the supervision of Edward B. Garriott, Professor of Meteorology, and Willis L. Moore, Chief of the United States Weather Bureau.

The following proverbs, for example, are given to show how one may predict a change in weather by the action of the atmosphere on various things:

When walls are unusually damp rain is expected.

Horses sweating in the stable is a sign of rain.

Doors and windows are hard to shut in damp weather.

Flies sting and are more troublesome than usual when the humidity increases before rain.

Sailors note the tightening of the cordage on ships as a sign of coming rain.

Sensitive plants contract their leaves and blossoms when the humidity increases.

A piece of seaweed hung up will become damp previous to rain.

A lump of hemp acts as a good hygrometer and prognosticates rain when it is damp.

Tobacco becomes moist preceding rain.

When rheumatic people complain of more than ordinary pains it will probably rain.

When the locks turn damp in the scapulars surely it will rain.—American Indians.

If corns, wounds and sores itch or ache more than usual rain is likely to fall shortly.

When matting on the floor is shrinking dry weather may be expected.

When matting expands expect wet weather.

Ropes shorten with an increase of humidity.

Three foggy or misty mornings indicate rain.

Quarries of stone and slate indicate rain by a moist exudation from the stones.

Salt increases in weight before rain.

A farmer's wife says when her cheese salt is soft it will rain; when getting dry, fair weather may be expected.

If metal plates and dishes sweat it is a sign of bad weather.—Pliny.

Three foggy or misty mornings indicate rain.—Oregon.

A rising fog indicates fair weather; if the fog settles down expect rain.

Fog from seaward, fair weather; fog from land, rain.—New England.

Hoarfrost indicates rain.

Heavy frosts bring heavy rain; no frosts, no rain.—California.

The larger the halo about the moon the nearer the rain clouds and the sooner the rain may be expected.

When the perfume of flowers is unusually perceptible rain may be expected.

When the mountain moss is dry and brittle expect clear weather.

Sunflower raising its head indicates rain.

Rainbow in morning, shepherds take warning;

Rainbow at night, shepherd's delight;

Rainbow at night, sailors' delight;

Rainbow in morning, sailor's take warning.

Rainbow in the morning shows that shower is west of us, and that we will probably get it. Rainbow in the evening shows that shower is east of us and is passing off.

Snakes expose themselves on the approach of rain.

In dry weather, when creeks and springs that have gone dry, become moist, or, as we say, begin to sweat, it indicates approaching rain. Many springs that have gone dry will give a good flow of water just before rain.

—J. E. Walker, Kansas.

Drains, ditches and dunghills are more offensive before rain.

Floors saturated with oil become very damp just before rain.

Guitar strings shorten before rain.

Human hair (red) curls and kinks at the approach of a storm, and straightens after the storm.

Lamp wicks crackle, candles burn dim, soot falls down, smoke descends, walls and pavements are damp, and disagreeable odors arise from ditches and gutters before rain.

Pipes for smoking tobacco become indicative of the state of the air. When the scent is longer retained than usual and seems denser and more powerful it often forebodes a storm.

Soap covered moisture indicates bad weather.

It has been known that animals are able to foretell storm or fair weather with an instinct practically unknown to man. Many sayings are based on the actions of beasts, birds, fish and insects, and here are a few which the Washington weather prophets regard as true:

Dogs making holes in the ground, eating grass in the morning or refusing meat are said to indicate rain.—Colonel Dunwoody.

All shepherds agree in saying that before a storm comes sheep become frisky, leap and butt or "box" each other.—Folklore Journal.

When horses and cattle stretch out their necks and sniff the air it will rain.

Horses as well as other domestic animals foretell the coming of rain by starting more than ordinary and appearing in other respects restless and uneasy.

Hogs crying and running uneasily up and down with hay or litter in their mouths foreshadow a storm to be near at hand.—Thomas Willford.

Kine, when they assemble at one end of a field with their tails to windward often indicate rain or wind.

When birds of long flight hang about home expect a storm.

Migratory birds fly south from cold and north from warm weather. When a severe cyclone is near they become puzzled and fly in circles, dart into the air, and can easily be decoyed.—North Carolina.

When birds cease to sing rain and thunder will probably occur.

Birds and fowls oiling feathers indicate rain.

If fowls roll in the dust or sand rain is near at hand.

Bats flying late in the evening indicate fair weather. Bats which squeak dying tell of rain tomorrow.

If cocks crow late and early, clapping their wings occasionally, rain is expected.—Ex.

Little Items of Interest All Over the Length and Breadth of Indiana.

Marshall Takes Office in January.
Thomas R. Marshall will take office as Governor on January 11, 1908.

Building Good Roads.
Nine gravel roads will be constructed in Hamilton county at a cost of \$80,000.

Awful Death of Baby Boy.
Robert Heath, 3 years old, fell into a tub of hot suds and was scalded to death at Anderson.

Only Nine for Hise in Old Home.
The official vote in Pike county gives Thomas L. Hise, Independence League candidate for President, only nine votes. Hise is a Pike county man.

To Vote on County Option.
Plans are already under way to circulate a petition for a vote on local option in Grant county, the leaders in the movement desiring to act while the people are still agitated over the liquor question.

Her Peculiar Accident.
Miss Anna Lanagan, stenographer for Mayor Shattuck, of Brazil, while dressing, stepped on a bar of soap, which threw her to the floor, breaking her right arm.

Dynamited the Postoffice.
Burglars dynamited the postoffice at Lowell and got away with stamps and money amounting to \$800.

Tendered Sigmund a "Shower."
In honor of his approaching wedding Sigmund Elchel, of Evansville, was carried by six of his friends to the Ohio river and given a severe ducking. After the ducking he was driven to Howells, where, in dripping clothes, he was married to Miss Lucile Arnold.

Water Famine Affects Mines.
Word has come to the Indiana Railroad Commission that a water famine prevails in the mining districts of southern Indiana. The water supply at the mines has been exhausted and water is now being shipped from Terre Haute, Evansville, Vincennes and other of the larger cities in that section of the State. It is impossible to get a sufficient supply in the small towns near the mines.

Tobacco Chewing Kills Horse.
Hayden Davis, a well-known Lawrenceburg racehorse trainer, lost a valuable running horse, Osterman, which was addicted to a habit that resulted in his death. The animal was an inveterate tobacco chewer. When Davis turned the horse out in a pasture he jumped a fence and got into the barn of a tobacco raiser in Logan township, and ate so much of the weed that death resulted.

Strange Water Phenomenon.
A hill on the farm of G. W. Barrett, near Charlestown, which has been as dry as tinder, owing to the long draught, suddenly began to sweat muddy water. The oozing from the sides of the hill continued until a clear stream began to flow. It is believed that an underground river flows from the east under Jeffersonville, and is the source of the city's present water supply.

Foe of Fish and Game Law.
The Rev. John H. Hill, a Democrat, who was elected to represent Bartholomew county in the lower house of the next General Assembly, is a foe of the fish and game laws. He believes that it is the God-given right of every man to fish and hunt when he pleases, and it will be one of the aims of his work in the Legislature to secure the repeal of the fish and game laws.

Waited Twenty-five Years for Bride.
The marriage of Miss Alice Davenport, aged 35, to William Toney, 45 years old, of Charter Oak, does not tell the whole story. They were children together and became engaged, but the marriage was prevented by the objections of the girl's parents, who did not believe young Toney capable of supporting a wife. Toney decided to make his fortune, and Miss Davenport had promised to wait for him. After twenty-five years he returned to claim his bride.

Girls, Here's a Chance.
An unusual freak of nature is noticeable in a two-acre field of corn in Lewis township, Clay county, owned by Mayor Shattuck, of Brazil, every ear of which is a deep, rich red in color. All the ears are long and well developed. It is whispered that the girls of Lewis township are insisting upon an old-fashioned corn-husking when the crop is harvested, reviving a custom in danger of becoming obsolete. If Mayor Shattuck has an eye to thrift he may act on the suggestion. The presence of red ears should bring out every youngster in Lewis township, for that matter, in Clay county.

Lid on at Ft. Wayne.
Sheriff Jesse Grice, of Ft. Wayne, issued a statement explaining his position in the prize fighting game, and said he would arrest every one present at a fight in Allen county. He is still acting under orders of Governor Hanly and the proposed Gardner-Morgan Thanksgiving day fight there will not be held.

Wagers on the Election.
About \$187,000 was wagered on the election in Indianapolis. One man won \$12,000 on Marshall at practically even money.

Tippecanoe Monument Dedicated.
Tippecanoe battlefield monument was dedicated Saturday at Lafayette.

State Commercial Clubs to Meet.
State Federation of Commercial Clubs meets at Richmond Nov. 18 and 19.

Guinness Trial Is On.
Whether Mrs. Bella Guinness is alive or whether she died in the fire that killed her three children is the question that proves most interesting at the trial of Ray Lamphere, which began at Laporte Monday. Lamphere is charged with the murder of Mrs. Guinness and her children. His attorneys declare that they will disprove the charge against him by proving that Mrs. Guinness herself is alive. The story of the fifteen murders at the Guinness farm is being retold at the hearing. Attorneys for the defense say they have discovered startling evidence. The prosecution declares that new evidence connecting Lamphere with the atrocities of the murder farm will be introduced.

Some Facts About Hoosierdom.
Mrs. Mary Stubbs Moore, State Statistician, has prepared some facts about Indiana for her biennial report that are of interest and will be of considerable value as reference. The facts deal with the size, wealth, railroads, history, schools and religion of the State. Some of the statistics are set out in the following table:

Indiana Territory was organized July 4, 1800.

Indiana was admitted as a State December 11, 1816.

Indiana's first Constitution was adopted June 29, 1816.

Indiana's present Constitution was adopted February 10, 1857.

Indiana's greatest length is 276 miles.

Indiana's average breadth is 140 miles.

Indiana's land area is 35,885 square miles, or 22,966,400 acres.

Indiana's lakes cover 469 square miles or 300,160 acres.

Indiana's population in 1908 is estimated to be 2,775,708.

Indiana has 92 counties, 88 cities and 363 incorporated towns.

Total taxable property in Indiana in 1907 was \$1,767,815,487.

Assessed valuation of real property in 1907, \$1,000,690,950.

Assessed valuation of personal property in 1907