

America in Longest Warm Spell Since 1776; Temperature Line Records a 25-Year Rise

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—That next ice age, if one is coming, when glaciers may come grinding down from the North again to overwhelm America, is still a long way off, if Uncle Sam's weather charts are any indication.

On the charts, a red line has been steadily rising since 1908, tracing the course of the longest warm spell America has enjoyed since the War of the Revolution. Weather Bureau experts are eyeing the red line closely this Spring, wondering whether it will keep on going up, or whether it has passed the peak and will now head downhill.

The Winter of 1931-32 was the warmest in more than 100 years in that part of the country east of the Rocky Mountains. The Winter just ended was not quite so warm. That may indicate that we are turning back toward colder weather, or it may represent just a temporary lapse that will not affect the warm spell's long-time course.

The Spring of 1933 may help tell the story. Temperatures of Springs, and also of Autumns, have been tending upward for the last fifty years. This Spring, if past

tendencies are maintained, also should be warm, but the Weather Bureau is making no forecasts.

The red temperature line on the long-time weather charts, going back 150 years, rises three times above the straight line that represents the long-time normal, and dips below it twice. The first warm spell came at the beginning of the nineteenth century, about the time of the War of 1812. The second was about seventy-five years later. We still are basking in the heat of the third.

The long warm and cold periods, of course, are broken by minor fluctuations in the opposite direction. Trends for the Winter season are most irregular, with some cold spells to interrupt the general tendency toward "green Christmases" and smaller fuel bills. Summers grew colder from about 1875 to 1912, but then began growing warmer again.

For Fall, Winter and Spring, however, the average temperatures for the past twenty years are from two and one half to nearly four degrees higher than similar averages, up to sixty or seventy years ago. The same trends have been found in some other countries of the Northern Hemisphere.