DROUGHT OF AUGUST 3-SEPTEMBER 7, 1913, AT FORT SMITH, ARK.

By Leon J. Guthrie, Observer.

In the vicinity of Fort Smith an unusually dry, hot period began August 2, 1913, and partially terminated September 8, 1913. It could scarcely be termed an unusually destructive drought, as ample and well-distributed rains that occurred in July and on August 1 gave considerable surplus moisture and practically assured fair staple crops. These preceding favorable conditions greatly lessened the discomforts and losses that otherwise might have resulted from the protracted period of abnormally light rainfall and continuous heat.

On August 1, 0.82 of an inch of rain fell. From that date until September 8 the total fall was 0.02 inch. This is the longest period without substantial rainfall that has occurred at the Fort Smith station; but there have been several periods nearly as long, and some of them were preceded by less favorable conditions.

High day temperatures and abnormally low relative humidity were the characteristics of the period. The mean maximum temperature for August was 98.1°, the highest for any month of record. The highest previous records were 97.9° in July, 1901, and 97.7° in August, 1896. There were 13 days on which the maximum temperature reached 100° or higher. The greatest number of consecutive days with maximum temperatures of 90° or higher that has occurred during the 31 years of record began July 13 and ended September 7, 1913.

The relative humidity was the lowest of record, and toward the latter part of the month, under the influence of southwesterly winds, afternoon readings as low as those prevailing in arid regions were obtained. The mean for the month of August was 55 per cent, which is 15 per cent lower than the August normal. The lowest observed reading was 10 per cent at 5 p.m., August 29.

Upper clouds predominated, and the distinctive “fair weather type” of cumulus was seldom observed. The