

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WEATHER BUREAU

CHARLES F. MARVIN, CHIEF

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# CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

## CALIFORNIA SECTION

MAY, 1915

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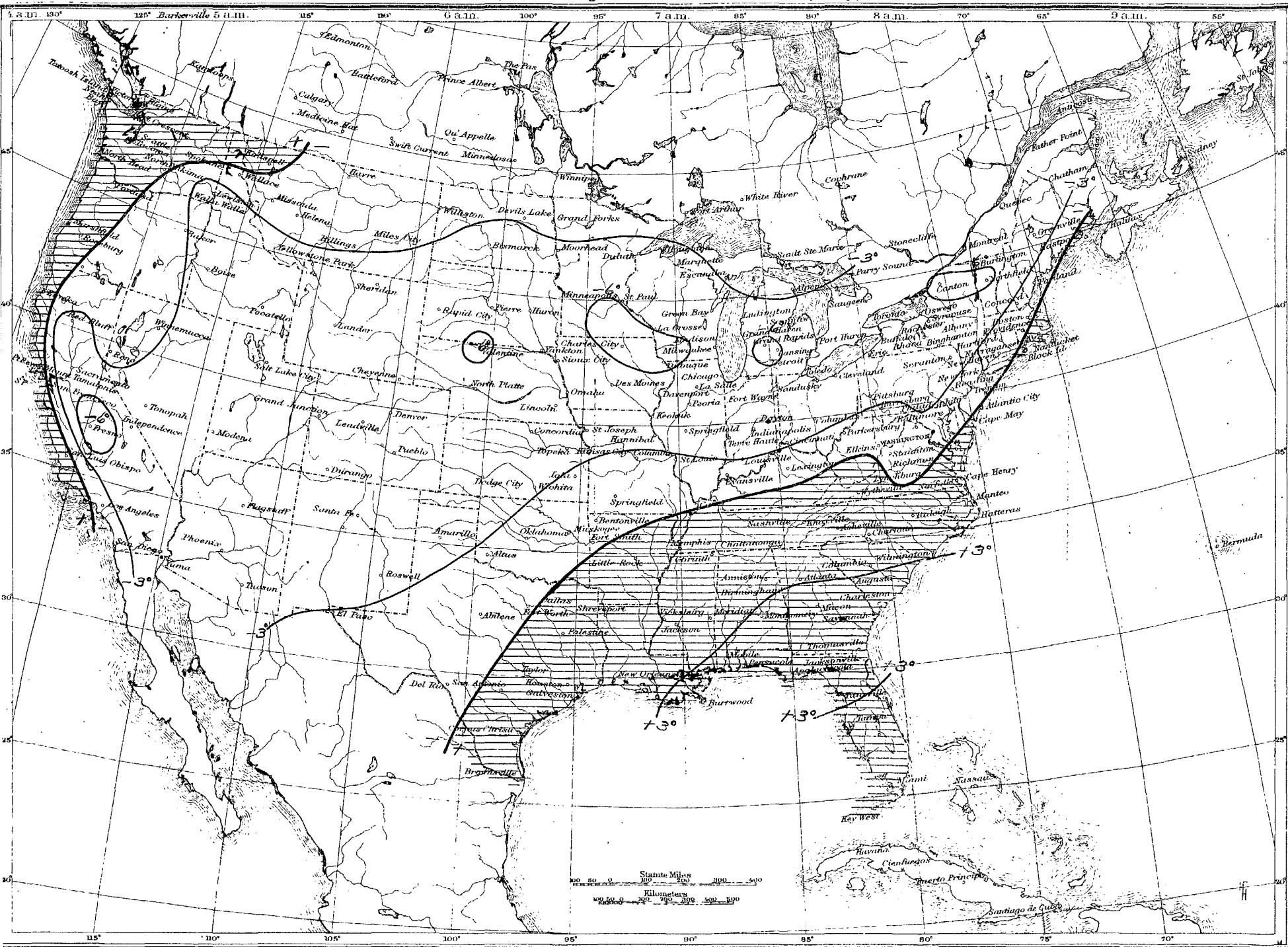
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DISTRICT FORECASTER AND SECTION DIRECTOR

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SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.  
WEATHER BUREAU OFFICE  
JUNE 19, 1915

Departure of the Mean Temperature from the Normal, May, 1915.



## U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEATHER BUREAU.

## CALIFORNIA SECTION.

G. H. WILLSON, District Forecaster.

VOL. XIX.

SAN FRANCISCO, MAY, 1915.

No. 5.

## GENERAL SUMMARY.

May, 1915, was notable for its extraordinary precipitation. During the first four days and also on the 16th and 17th rain fell from one end of the State to the other, while in the north portion the inclusive period from the 1st to the 17th might be characterized as one of almost continuous unsettled, showery weather, except for clearing intervals on the 6th and 7th and 14th and 15th. Another period of wet weather in all but the desert sections was the 23rd and 24th. With a few exceptions the monthly amounts totalled far in excess of the May normals, and at mountain stations the excess was greatly magnified. On the western slopes of the Sierra records of 15 inches and over were not uncommon. At Kennett in Shasta county the total monthly rainfall amounted to 18.84 inches. Most of this fell between the 8th and 12th, and more than 8 inches fell within an eight hour period on the 9th. The ensuing flood carried away telegraph lines and washed out the railroad line at many places between Kennett and Motion, interrupting train service for several days.

The crops which suffered most from the wet weather were strawberries and cherries. Seventy-five per cent of the former in the Sacramento Valley were said to have been destroyed. The second crop, however, was expected to be as heavy as ever. A large part of the early-sown grain was lodged, but the late-sown was probably benefited to a corresponding degree. The volunteer hay was all that had been cut.

The coldest weather of the month occurred on the first few days. In the citrus district of southern California the temperatures went below 40° and snow fell in the adjacent mountains. The lowest temperature ever recorded in May at San Diego, 45°, occurred on the 3rd. The loss in deciduous orchards, which were then in blossom at high elevations, was considerable. The month closed with a warm spell which was quite as general as the cold one of the opening days, the highest temperature at nearly all points occurring on the 27th. Snow drifts in the Sierra were still deep at the end of May and ample water for irrigation and power purposes seemed assured.

## PRESSURE.

The monthly mean atmospheric pressure for the State, reduced to sea-level, was 29.95 inches.

The highest was 30.35 inches at Eureka on the 26th.

The lowest was 29.51 inches at Point Reyes on the 1st.

The range for the State was 0.84 inch.

## TEMPERATURE.

The monthly mean temperature for the State was 57.6 degrees, which is 4.5 degrees below the normal.

The highest monthly mean was 80.4 degrees at Greenland Ranch and the lowest was 32.1 degrees at Tamarack.

The highest temperature, 113 degrees, occurred at Greenland Ranch on the 31st and the lowest was 2 degrees at Fordyce Dam on the 2nd.

The range for the State was 111 degrees.

## PRECIPITATION.

The average precipitation for the State was 4.13 inches or 2.91 inches above the normal.

The greatest monthly amount was 19.63 inches at Magalia while none occurred at 5 stations.

The greatest amount in 24 hours was 8.93 inches at Kennett on the 10th.

## RELATIVE HUMIDITY.

The mean relative humidity from observations taken at 5 a.m. and 5 p. m., for each of the regular Weather Bureau stations, was as follows: Eureka 85; Fresno 62; Los Angeles 74; Mount Tamalpais 81; Red Bluff 66; Sacramento 68; San Diego 78; San Francisco 75; San Jose 73; San Luis Obispo 78.

## WIND.

The prevailing direction of the wind was southwest.

## SUNSHINE AND CLOUDINESS.

At Eureka there were 128 hours of sunshine during the month or 28 per cent of the possible; at Fresno 296 hours or 67 per cent; at Los Angeles 265 hours or 61 per cent; at Mount Tamalpais 214 hours or 49 per cent; at Red Bluff 223 hours or 50 per cent; at Sacramento 234 hours or 53 per cent; at San Diego, 265 hours or 62 per cent; at San Francisco 228 hours or 52 per cent; at San Jose 225 hours or 51 per cent; at San Luis Obispo 222 hours or 51 per cent.

## MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA.

*Thunderstorms.*—Alturas, 3, 8, 13, 31; Branscomb, 5; Camptonville (near), 4, 5, 13, 18; Centerville, 13, 17, 18; China Flat, 3-6; Converse Nursery, 7; Deer Creek, 2, 5, 7; Downieville, 6, 7, 11; Dudley, 13; Dunlap, 12; Happy Camp, 5; Hayfork, 5, 7; Hatch Hatchy, 7, 16; Hullville, 5, 6; Kinsley, 4, 12; Lake Eleanor, 7; Las Plumas, 5, 17, 18; Letter Box, 18; McCloud, 10; McKinney's, 28; Mitchell Mill, 2, 12; Monte Vista, 10-12, 21; Nellie, 7; North Bloomfield, 2; Orleans, 4; Oroville, 18; Ruth, 4-7; Santa Barbara, 1, 2; Stockton, 4; Twin Valley, 5, 6; West Branch, 5, 6, 18; Willows, 13.

*Earthquakes.*—Aguanga, 13; Bakersfield, 28; Branscomb, 2, 6; Brawley, 1; Cahuilla, 11; Campbell, 30; Eureka, Fort Bragg, 6; Fresno, Glennville, Hot Springs, 28; Julian, 11; Lindsay, Lone Pine, 28; Los Gatos, 24, 30; Merced, 28; Morena Dam, Nellie, 11; Porterville, 28; Shively, 6; Susanville, 3.

## OBSERVERS' NOTES.

*Bunker Hill.*—The depth of snow at the end of May was five feet. The weight of a cubic foot taken two feet below the surface was 28 pounds.—C. F. Bettinger.

*Campo.*—These late May rains have put the mountain streams in fine form for a runoff all summer.—Archibald Campbell.

*Corona.*—The frost on the 1st did no serious damage, but was severe enough to injure slightly the new growth on lemon trees.—J. W. Garthwaite.

*Downieville.*—The frost on the 2nd killed most all fruit and berries.—John T. Mason.

*El Cajon.*—Rains early in the month, continuing those of April, soaked the ground, filled reservoirs, and assured large crops in all lines.—H. H. Kessler.

*Hayfork.*—Frost from the 1st to 6th and on the 22nd did some damage to early garden stuff.—Harry Everest.

*Inskip.*—There are deep drifts of well packed snow on the north and west sides of the adjacent mountains.—T. M. Cooper.

*Kennett.*—On the 9th 8.25 inches of rain fell from noon to 8 p. m. The maximum amount in one hour was 2.20 inches.—C. H. Kremers.

*Nellie.*—Apples were in full bloom and the freeze of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd killed the entire crop. There is more water in the streams than ever before at the end of May.—H. N. Hargrave.







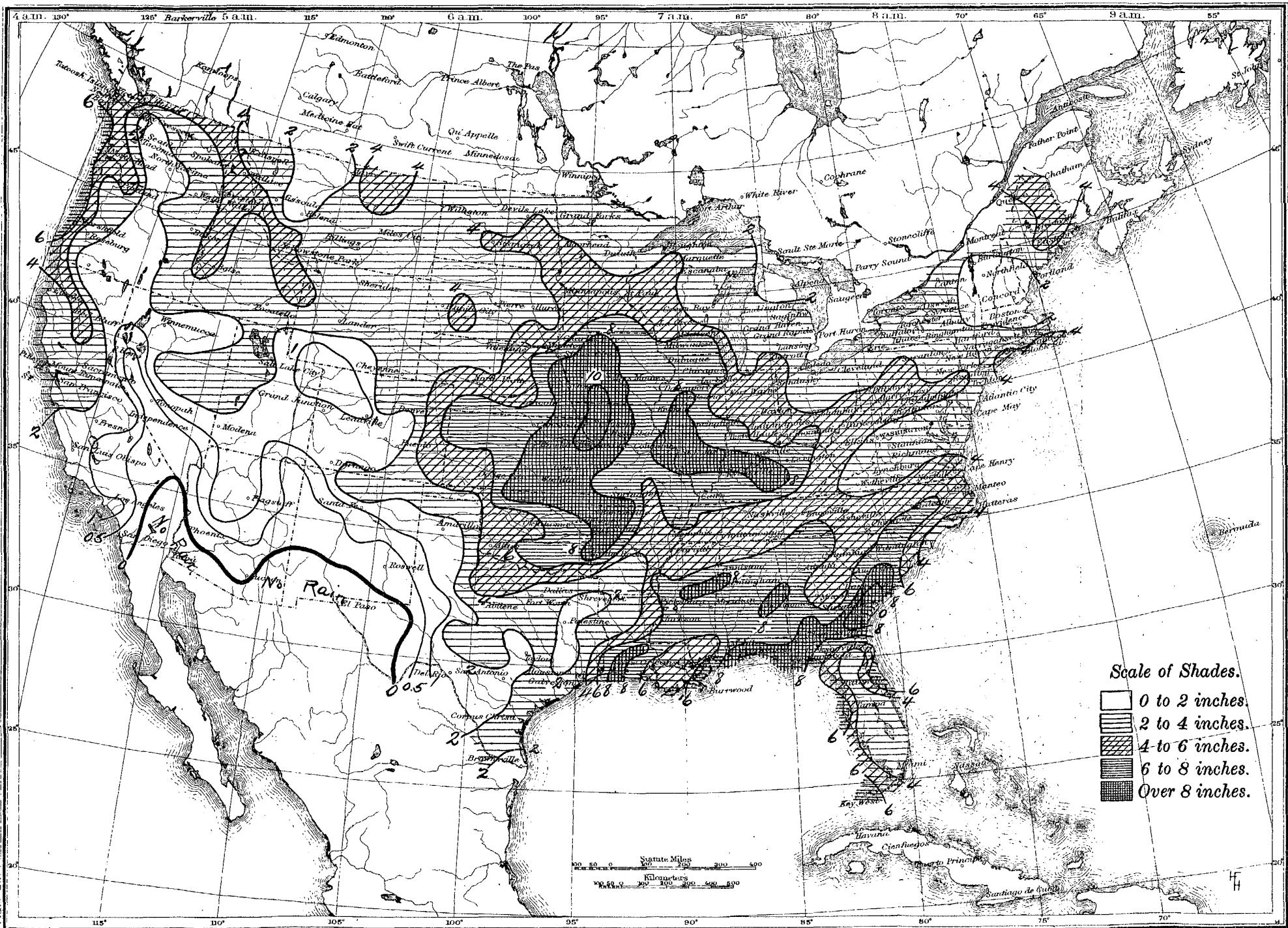








Total Precipitation, Inches, May, 1915.





The influence of the diversified topography of California upon its precipitation is shown by the lines of equal rainfall in inches, on the accompanying relief map.