

CHATS WITH THE WEATHER MAN.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: And now for our chat with the weather man! --- Weather is a subject that's always fresh --- as fresh as the dew on a bright May morning --- Let's listen to what our old friend Ob. Server has to say about the work of the United States Weather Bureau --- and other weather services around this old world of ours ----- Well, Mr. Ob. Server? -----

I guess most all of us have swapped weather talk with the neighbors at one time or another.

That's what I want to talk about; swapping weather reports.

I venture to say a lot of you traded observations on the weather this morning. Maybe you ran across a friend from another part of the county, and compared notes on the weather. Or maybe it ^{was} with your next door neighbor.

Well, from what Mr. A. J. Haidle, of the forecast division of the United States Weather Bureau tells me, nations do something of the same sort. Only it is not casual exchange of information, at odd times, in chance encounters, as it is with most of us. Nations swap weather talk with neighbor nations as a regular thing every day and in a systematic way. The United States, for instance, gives other nations the reports on our conditions, and we get their reports in return. In that way, we get weather observations every day from all around the world.

Every day, Mr. Haidle draws a weather map of the entire Northern half of the world based on our observations and those we get from other countries by cable and radio. And on this subject of weather, nations are very neighborly. Each helps the other and is in turn helped by the weather information it gets, in return. While our Weather Bureau prepares this world-wide map from which our forecaster interprets the general weather outlook in this country for a week ahead, other weather services are making similar maps of world weather conditions for their forecasters.

For instance, Mr. Haidle showed me the map he had made on a certain day on the basis of reports from this and other countries. We then looked

up a similar map of the entire Northern Hemisphere as drawn that same day by the German meteorological office in Hamburg, Germany. We laid those two maps, drawn the same day one in Washington, and the other in Hamburg, side by side. They were almost exactly alike. The general areas of clear weather and the centers of storms, the "Highs" and "Lows" with those attendant lines circling about them had been accurately located by the different map makers working thousands of miles apart.

Of course, the German weather map men had European conditions shown in a little more detail, because they get more observations in Europe than are considered necessary to send in the trans-oceanic exchange of weather information. On the other hand, our Northern Hemisphere weather map shows conditions in the United States with a little more detail.

In the main, however, the exchange of observations gives each of the world's chief meteorological services the information by which its experts can chart a practically complete and accurate picture of weather conditions the world around.

Here is how the swapping is done:

Twice a day, at 11 A.M. and 11 P.M., our United States Weather Bureau sends direct to Paris by radio a selected set of some 75 weather reports from the chief weather stations scattered throughout the United States, Canada, Alaska, Greenland, and the West Indies, and from ships at sea in the North Atlantic west of 35 degrees and in the Pacific Ocean. At Paris, those reports from this side are rebroadcast from the Eiffel Tower, and picked up by such of the twenty-two meteorological services of Europe as do not copy the bulletins direct. Many of them do. The reports are used in forecasting and weather study by the different countries.

A similar collection of reports on European conditions has been assembled at Paris and forwarded from there to this country by radio. Recently, however, it was found that better reception could be obtained through the British Meteorological Office and the Rugby, England, radio station.

So now, twice a day, at 9 P.M. and 10 A.M., Greenwich Mean Time, the weather reports covering conditions over Europe, northern Africa, parts of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, and Asia, and the North Atlantic ocean east of longitude 35 degrees, as recorded at 86 weather stations of different nationalities, are gathered by the British Meteorological Office at London and forwarded to this country through the British radio station at Rugby.

Mr. Haidle says that reports from stations along the river Nile in Egypt and on the Red Sea are now included among those used in making the daily chart of the Northern Hemisphere at our United States Weather Bureau.

Next year, through the courtesy of the Portuguese government we may get several reports from the Cape Verde Islands off the west coast of Africa. That report will be forwarded by way of Lisbon to the Azores by radio, and then cabled directly to Washington, and Mr. Haidle estimates that it may prove

of immense value in forecasting the approach of tropical hurricanes. The Cape Verde Islands are near what is considered as practically the birthplace of many of the tropical storms which sometimes sweep our South Atlantic and Gulf coast.

On the other side of the world, we also get a number of observations used to make up our world-wide weather map. Ships following the Great Circle route along the coast of Alaska to Japan and China send in reports. And of course, we get reports from Hawaii and Guam and the Phillipines. And a series from Japan and this weather service reaches even into the center of China.

In fact, if you could glance at the chart as Mr. Haidle draws it each day, you would see that we now have a practically complete weather map of the Northern Hemisphere except for parts of northern Russia and Siberia. Of course, a lot can happen to a storm moving across the vast stretches of the Pacific, but Mr. Haidle tells me that observations made in the eastern Asia often give our forecaster good tips as to what is coming our way in the way of weather.

As you know, the general movement of storms in the Northern Hemisphere is usually from west to east. What is coming to the west of us is highly important to our forecasters. And so it is with the nations of Europe. That is one big reason our weather reports are so important to them. What we are getting shows their forecasters what they may expect. Then too, many of the countries of Europe are so small, it is necessary that they have reports from other countries in order to get any advance notice on storms at all.

In regard to the weather, we are all neighbors. All nations find it to their mutual advantage to be neighborly and swap information on that very vital subject, the weather.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Once every two weeks, this Station ----- presents these chats with the weather man. The information comes direct from the United States Department of Agriculture of which the United States Weather Bureau is a part.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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