

June 2

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,  
of Clark University,  
tells of:

TWO CENTS FOR THE WEATHER BUREAU

We have long been accustomed to think of the purchasing power of two cents in terms of a postage stamp or a yeast cake. Another item may be added. Two cents per person per year is all that is required to provide us with the services of the U. S. Weather Bureau. It may be interesting to see just how much we get for our two cents apiece.

Dr. W. J. Humphreys has recently described some of the present activities of the bureau. Take the forecasting division for instance: "The bureau receives detailed weather reports daily, in most cases twice daily, from approximately the following number of stations in various parts of the world: The Far East, 12; Alaska, 12; Mexico, 20; Canada, 35; Europe, 25; West Indies, 30; the oceans (from ships), 100; United States, 200. In addition to all these, reports of the state of the upper air are received daily from six kite stations and 40 pilot balloon stations, all in the United States." Besides observing and reporting for forecasts, the Weather Bureau assembles data for climatological studies and for the development of marine meteorology. Five thousand cooperative stations in the United States send data to the climatological division. The River and Flood Service bases its forecasts on readings of river stages from 500 places and rainfall from 500. The division of Agricultural Meteorology receives 400 daily telegraphic reports and 4,000 written reports.

"Clearly, then," says Dr. Humphreys, "The meteorological organization of the United States has reached enormous proportions, though still far short of the development that would be necessary adequately to meet all the needs it alone could properly serve." Perhaps some day we can afford to spend another cent on the Weather Bureau.

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(Tomorrow: Average June Weather)