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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ALLEVIATED WEATHER

Outdoors, weather remains largely beyond man's control, though America has spent great sums in futile attempts at rainmaking, and Europe has vainly tried all sorts of schemes to prevent hailstorms. Now market-gardeners make artificial rain from overhead pipes - it is cheaper and more effective than shooting at the clouds or sprinkling electrified sand on them. Fog dispersal on a small scale, however, appears to have been demonstrated, though at a prohibitive cost.

Fruit growers can avert early frosts by using orchard heaters, thus controlling outdoor weather in a small degree. In another way, prairie farmers have been successful in modifying their weather. By planting long rows of trees as wind-breaks they have locally decreased the strength of the wind, lessened evaporation, and somewhat reduced the suddenness of temperature changes.

The climate of a city varies somewhat from that of the surrounding country, the buildings and fires and smoke tend to make it warmer and the buildings to lower the wind velocity in general. Locally, however, the wind may be increased at times to hurricane velocities at the corner of a skyscraper. Proposals to glass over important downtown sections of cities have been made, to save the shoppers and merchants from the inconvenience and expense of many phases of weather - heavy snows, deluges, cold waves, for example. The occasional arcade is a step in this direction.

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