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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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LATE AUTUMN WORK FOR WEATHER MEN

The weather man is now less occupied with frost warnings than with predictions of cold waves and severe freezes, damaging to perishable freight shipments. Fortunately, a cold wave is a definitely progressing condition which can be pretty satisfactorily forecast, unless it comes from the Hudson Bay country. When a cold wave is expected, shipments of perishable goods are accelerated, or they may be run into roundhouses for protection. Bananas, for instance, require very careful handling and should not be subjected to a temperature below 55 during shipment. Other fruits and vegetables are likely to be damaged by extreme temperatures, while most meats are best shipped in cold weather. The announcement of a cold wave, too, is a signal for removal of eggs from storage, and increased shipments from western producers to eastern markets in anticipation of a rise in prices.

A notice of coming low temperatures is of use in many ways to cities. Heating and lighting plants prepare for increased demands, general plumbing is protected, anti-freeze solutions are used in automobiles, work in concrete is stopped, and coal dealers, at least the more enlightened, supply partial orders to all who need fuel, rather than full orders to a few.

In late October and through November, the stormiest month on the Great Lakes, the Government warnings of gales are carefully heeded and much valued by steamship companies and their shipmasters.

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