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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WHAT'S THE WEATHER?

Though we all appreciate, or should appreciate, the value of the Weather Bureau's forecasts, and find them available through the radio, the newspaper, the telephone, the display card, and the weather map, nevertheless, we like to see for ourselves what the weather is over the country, and what it may be next. Perhaps this is why our newspapers not only publish the forecast, but also give a summary of the weather conditions in various parts of the country. The little weather table gives temperatures and rainfall, sometimes more, for a number of the important cities, spread over the country. This number, however, is but a small fraction of the 200 odd reporting stations. And there are many more items reported than are shown in the paper.

From the several kinds of maps made from these reports the forecasters form their estimates of how the distribution of weather will change <sup>in</sup> 12, 24, and 36 hours. What they count on most strongly is the eastward movement of the weather, and the tendency of rainy areas to increase in size and the rainfall to gain in intensity. The forecasters' estimates of the movement and development of the weather are issued twice daily for all sections of the country. When the forecast reads, "Rain and warmer, followed by fair and colder," a look at the weather table will usually show that it is raining and warmer with southerly winds at cities a few hundred miles to the west and southwest, while beyond it may be partly cloudy or clear and colder, with a northwest wind blowing.

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(Tomorrow: Visibility Before Rain)

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