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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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"INCREASING CLOUDINESS AND WARMER"

"Increasing cloudiness and warmer, followed by rain," is a common forecast and one rather welcome to the furnace man. Such a forecast is issued when a low pressure area is approaching. The air flowing into the "low" is rising, cooling, and some of its moisture is condensing and running forward with the wind. First there appear the thin wisps of cirrus, white trails of snow-crystals a few miles high. These wisps merge later into a continuous thin sheet, the crystals of which often refract the passing sun's rays and separate them so that we see the colors in a large ring or halo. Later, as the region of greater moisture and more rapid ascent of air comes closer, the clouds become a denser sheet, alto-stratus, and gathering flocks of clouds, alto-cumulus, at intermediate heights are likely to form. The warmer, southerly wind is responsible for these alto-cumulus clouds. Also, at times, a low sheet of cloud, stratus, or even fog, will form where the warm, moist wind mixes with the residual cold air near the ground. If the ground is cold, the moist wind breathing upon it, produces a general film of water or even of white frost. Rain or snow follows as the center of the storm comes near, unless the storm is a weak one, or merely whisks by leaving only a suggestion of precipitation.

(Tomorrow: Cold Weather Delays Trains)

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