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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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MAN'S EFFECT ON THE WEATHER

"Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." While nobody has been able to control the weather, there have been innumerable attempts to control certain features, e.g. to blow waterspouts to pieces, to cannonade or bomb promising looking clouds to jiggle some rain from them, to make a fire hot enough to make a thunderstorm, and, more practically, to make enough heat to keep an orchard from freezing. But on the whole, man's efforts have been puny in relation to the magnitude of the natural forces controlling the weather. Even the electrified sand for dispelling fog, that we hear so much about, is impotent against a dense cloud, while its action on a thin cloud is about the same as that of a sandless airplane. The sand has been said, however, to cut a deep well into a cloud, but not to go through.

Now, eastern dry spells in October and early November this year and last have led some to wonder if the increase in radio broadcasting has not been to some extent to blame. A similar idea was entertained concerning an airplane landing field in Serbia. A relationship seems most unlikely. The occurrence of rainfall is owing to the cooling of appreciable masses of moist air. The moisture is brought by the winds or evaporated from the ground, and the cooling is effected by the expansion of this water vapor. It is difficult to imagine any way in which radio broadcasting or airplane landing could have any effect on either of these processes.

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