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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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DOUCET

Doucet, Quebec, a weather station that only recently began reporting to the U. S. Weather Bureau, is a new cold wave guardian for the northeastern United States. This outpost of the weather network is on the main line of the Canadian Northern Railway nearly 300 miles northwest of Montreal. Thus, when a cold wave is coming from the frigid lands east of Hudson Bay, it reaches Doucet at least 5 or 10 hours before it strikes any other stations. Doucet is not uncommonly 30 degrees Fahrenheit colder than Montreal or 50 to 60 degrees colder than Boston, New York, or Philadelphia. January 19 Doucet was 52 degrees Fahrenheit below zero, 76 degrees colder than New York and 126 degrees below Key West. From December 30 to early on the 31st the temperature at Doucet dropped from eight degrees above to 30 below zero, and by New Year's Eve the cold wave had struck into the St. Lawrence Valley, the Maritime Provinces, and northern New York and New England, sending the temperatures tumbling. At 8 a.m. New Year's day the temperature was 42 degrees below at Doucet, 10 and 16 degrees below at Montreal and Quebec, 12 below at St. John, and nearly down to zero from Halifax to central New England. The indications of this cold wave were given an ample time in advance, for the wind was not of high velocity.

In a gale, like that of November 16 to 17, 1924, or January 22-23, 1925, however, the advance notice can be but a few hours. It is so short as to make us wish for another station 300 or more miles still farther north of Montreal and for another one some hundreds of miles north of Quebec, in the greatest blank remaining so near our large eastern centers of population.

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(Tomorrow: Snow Smudges and Flurries)

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