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A Science Service Feature

July 11

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WHEAT ARMY ON THE MARCH

The army of wheat harvesters marches or rolls northward with the progress of the season. In hot weather it must advance rapidly, in cool spells delay and perhaps await employment. During the wartime pressure for more wheat by less men government centers guided the advance of the reduced harvesting army with the help of telegraphic reports of the position of the harvest front and predictions of the probable advance of wheat ripening during the next ten days.

At the southern limit of winter wheat the harvest begins before June 1. The harvest travels northward at an average of about 15 miles a day, and ends in the latitude of Nebraska and Iowa before the middle of July. Immediately after this, the harvest of spring wheat starts in these states, so the army can continue its march northward, its vanguard reaching the Canadian border by the middle of August.

In a western state such as Idaho a great difference in elevation interferes with the steady progress of the harvest and keeps the wheat harvesters waiting. July 5 one year, two young men who had just finished harvesting at Lewiston took the afternoon train ride to Moscow, Idaho, on the plateau, nearly 500 feet higher. Their dismay was pathetic when they found the wheat green and the beginning of harvest still some two or three weeks away.

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