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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WEATHER ON GREENLAND'S ICE CAP

The Arctic promises to be a popular summer resort this year. Among the various proposed explorations, Prof. W. H. Hobbs' University of Michigan expedition to Greenland will be of particular interest to weather men. The aim is to establish four new weather stations in Greenland, two of them if possible on the vast level ice-cap at an elevation of nearly 2 miles above the sea.

The coldest places where temperatures have been measured throughout the year have been in northeastern Siberia and on the borders of the Antarctic and north Greenland ice-caps. Judging from the low temperatures observed on both ice-caps even in summer it is certain that the average temperatures there through the year are lower than those of any stations yet in existence. Whether the absolute lowest temperatures in winter will beat the world's record of 90.4 degrees Fahrenheit below zero, now held by Verkhoyansk, remains to be seen. However, a temperature as low as 30 below zero Fahrenheit was observed in summer on the ice cap.

The high altitude makes the region colder than the surface of the sea nearer the pole. Wind velocities, also, will probably be found much greater than farther north, owing to the proximity of open water and the numerous storms that skirt southern Greenland. It is not likely, however, that the winds will reach the intensity of those on parts of the coast of Antarctica, Mawson's "Home of the Blizzard".

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