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September 30, 1926

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed September 23, 1926

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RADIO WEATHER MAPS

For some years it has been possible for ships at sea to make their own weather maps fresh from the radio reports. If the ship is nearer the American shore of the Atlantic the twice-daily report from Arlington supplemented by observations from ships within a few hundred miles, provide the necessary information for a weather map. Nearer the European side, the radio messages from the Eiffel Tower provide most of the information. Such weather maps have from time to time been of considerable service to ship captains, but owing to the labor of decoding and locating data, not to mention drawing the lines of pressure and entering the wind conditions, temperatures and state of weather, these maps have not come into common use.

The new apparatus for sending the lines of weather maps by radio will mark a great advance in weatherforecasting at sea. While the advantage will accrue most in coastal waters, a knowledge of the form of the pressure systems over the continents and nearby portions of the ocean will be more serviceable than the more or less generalized maps which the necessarily incomplete reports by radio made possible.

This advance in radio also marks a step toward the accomplishment of a world weather map. Northern Hemisphere weather maps of a moderate degree of detail have been published heretofore and are now being prepared day after day at important weather centers, such as Washington and Toronto in eastern North America. But such enormous areas are still blanks in the weather observing network that something more than ready transmission is needed for this ultimate goal of the weather map.

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21st and B Sts.,  
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