

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE CLIMATIC NECESSITY OF GARAGES

In New England and other cold snowy regions, such as Michigan, New York, and eastern Canada, no one would dream of leaving his car standing out all winter - that is, if he were using it daily or had hopes of salvaging it in spring. There is a story of a man who abandoned his car near Franconia Notch in an October snow-storm and had to dig three times before he could find it. A garage of some sort is practically essential in a land of heavy snow and ice storms, and, moreover, convenience demands that it should be heated. Even batteries are subject to freezing at zero temperatures.

Consequently, the northerner visiting Washington, D.C., in winter is surprised to see the streets lined with parked cars, night after night. In Washington rents are so high and the climate relatively so mild that the cost of garage space would often exceed the deterioration suffered by the car in standing out. These parked cars in Washington constitute quite a problem for the street department, for the streets are at no time free of automobiles and hence cannot be easily cleared in case of snow. One winter morning after a light fall of sticky snow an observer walking in town to work counted the number of passing cars with dry and with snowy tops. As 117 were dry and 111 snowy, apparently nearly half of them had stood out overnight.

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