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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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LATVIA ON THE WEATHER MAP

Within the last few years there has sprung up in Europe a very elaborate system of distributing the results of weather observations by radio. Records of observations at the various stations in each country are assembled by telegraph, telephone or radio at a central station, which broadcasts a collective bulletin at certain prescribed hours, in accordance with a time-table drawn up by international agreement.

Not only does this plan place the reports of a great number of stations at the disposal of meteorologists, who chart them as a basis of weather forecasts, but the facilities of radiotransmission and the use of ingenious cipher codes have made possible much more comprehensive reports from each station than could be sent in the days when transmission was accomplished by wire.

One country that has recently appeared on the international weather map is Latvia. Its bulletins are transmitted from the radio station at Libau (KCQ) four times a day on a wave-length of 2650 meters, and once a day on 600 meters. The last of these messages, which is a special bulletin for mariners, is repeated from Riga (KCA) on 600 meters. Latvia is a small country and the bulletins include regular weather reports from only six stations, but information concerning ice conditions along the coast in winter are reported from 15 places. Reports from Riga include information concerning the temperature, humidity and winds in the upper air.

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