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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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MAKING RAIN IN KANSAS CITY

Some Weather Bureau men were recently swapping anecdotes, and one of them vouchsafed the following:

"In the old days our weather office was located on the same floor with the U.S.Court. It was a busy morning we were having. The hall adjoining our office was crowded with witnesses and jurors called in on a case.

"My chief and I were working on the weather map - translating the code reports as they came in. The crowd was all eyes and ears. Pretty soon I came to a misspelled work in the Kansas City report. I had had enough experience to know that it was not a good code word, but I didn't know exactly what the word might mean. So I turned to the chief and asked, 'What shall we do with Kansas City?' In other words, I wanted to know how to interpret the code words, which was a report of the state of the weather in Kansas City at 8 o'clock that morning. The chief answered 'Make it rain'.

"That was the signal for the boys out in the hall to prick up their ears. One of them turned to a companion and whispered, with a look of awe on his face, 'They're going to make it rain in Kansas City today.'

"I suppose he actually thought we could!"

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