

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WEATHER NEWS BY RADIO

One of the subjects to be discussed at the International Radiotelegraphic Congress which has just begun its sessions in Washington is the use of radio for transmitting weather information. Understandings will be sought as to the wave lengths to be employed for meteorological reports, hours of broadcasting, tariffs, priority of weather messages, and other matters concerning which there is at present a conflict of claims between the meteorologists and others who make extensive use of wireless telegraphy.

The pressing necessity of settling such questions is due to the fact that meteorological messages and broadcasts via the ether have grown to startling proportions. According to a plan that has been in operation in Europe since shortly after the close of the world war and that is gradually spreading to the rest of the world, the results of meteorological observations in each country are centralized three or four times a day, by either wire or radio, at a high-powered radio station, whence they are broadcasted at specified hours. The time-table now in force in Europe and adjacent regions provides for more than 250 separate broadcasts a day. Most of these comprise the weather reports of a single country or other relatively small area, but several broadcasts from the Eiffel Tower and elsewhere are collective reports for the whole of Europe, northern Africa, the Near East, Greenland, Iceland, the North Atlantic, etc. There is a daily interchange of radio weather reports between Europe and America, and also between America and the Far East. Leningrad broadcasts weather reports from Siberia. Nearly the whole of the northern hemisphere has now been welded into a coherent weather-reporting service, and there are daily broadcasts at many places in the southern hemisphere, covering larger areas.

What with reports of observations on land and sea, intensive systems of reports along airways, forecasts, summaries, etc., news of the world's weather now crowds the ether.

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