

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A WEATHER OBSERVATORY FOR BERMUDA

Both the transatlantic flights of last summer and the tropical hurricanes of the year before brought out strongly the need of a more efficient weather-reporting service on the North Atlantic. The situation will be much improved if the plan now under consideration of establishing a first-class meteorological observatory in Bermuda is carried out.

The plan contemplates an institution that will receive and chart the weather reports now regularly broadcast from both sides of the Atlantic, as well as reports from vessels in the neighborhood of the islands. On the basis of the data thus assembled radio weather bulletins and storm warnings will be issued. Daily observations of the upper winds by means of pilot-balloons are part of the programme.

Bermuda is an especially strategic location for a meteorological observatory on account of the influence exerted by the so-called "Bermuda high" over atmospheric conditions on the North Atlantic and the adjacent continents. A small weather station already exists there and its reports, as far as they go, are of great value to American and European forecasters, but there is need for a first-class meteorological center in Bermuda comparable with those now operating in Porto Rico, Cuba, the Azores and Iceland.

Detailed plans for the Bermuda observatory have been drawn up by the Meteorological Office in London and a message/strongly recommending its establishment was recently transmitted by the Governor of Bermuda to the colonial legislature.

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