

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt
but intended for use
January 5, 1928

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed December 29, 1927

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FOREIGN WEATHER BUREAUS

The United States Weather Bureau and the Meteorological Service of Canada are among the most familiar of government institutions to people living, respectively, in the northern and southern divisions of English-speaking North America. Their weather forecasts and warnings are published in all newspapers in the two countries. The climatic statistics they compile are constantly consulted for a variety of practical and scientific purposes.

Looking abroad, we find that most civilized countries possess similar institutions for forecasting weather and compiling records of climate. None is more active or more efficient than the Meteorological Office, attached to the British Air Ministry, with headquarters in London. France possesses the oldest telegraphic weather service in the world, founded by Leverrier in 1855. It is now known as the National Meteorological Office. In Germany there are separate meteorological establishments for several states of the Reich. The most important weather forecasting service is that of the Deutsche Seewarte (German Naval Observatory) at Hamburg, and there is a special weather service for aeronauts, with its center at Lindenberg, Prussia. Soviet Russia is likewise provided with separate meteorological services for different divisions of the country. The Ukraine, for example, possesses an energetic and up-to-date service only a few years old, while the service having its headquarters at the Central Geophysical Observatory in Leningrad is one of the oldest and most famous meteorological establishments in the world. Every other big country in Europe and nearly every small country has a weather bureau. So have all the countries and colonies of North Africa. British India, South Africa, Australia, Japan, the Dutch East Indies, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil and the Philippines all maintain large and well-organized meteorological services. There are many similar institutions in other parts of the world. On the other hand there are several Latin-America republics in which meteorology is still conspicuously neglected.

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21st and B Sts.,
Washington, D.C.