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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE ALASKAN WEATHER SERVICE

The weather service in Alaska, though it includes stations that were in operation long before the beginning of the present century, has been an organized unit of the United States Weather Bureau only since 1916. It has its headquarters at Sitka. There are about 70 stations. Most of these are maintained only for the purpose of obtaining climatic records, but there are 11 that report their observations twice a day by wire or by radio, for the use of forecasters.

Besides enabling the Bureau to issue local forecasts in the territory, these Alaskan reports are transmitted to forecasting centers in the United States proper, where they have proved of great value, especially in connection with the issue of storm warnings for the Pacific coast and cold wave warnings for the middle and western states. It is stated that the value of the perishable products saved through cold wave warnings during a recent winter in the Chicago forecast district alone was more than \$10,000,000, and that these warnings would have been less prompt and less accurate without the reports from Alaska.

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