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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed June 26, 1928.

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RIVAL WEATHER FORECASTS IN RUSSIA

According to the current issue of a well-known Italian meteorological journal, a remarkable multiplication of weather-forecasting institutions has taken place in Russia since the war. The Central Geophysical Observatory in Leningrad -- formerly known as the Nicholas Central Physical Observatory -- which has been the chief source of weather forecasts for generations, is still in full activity. Several corresponding institutions confining their activities to individual states of the Soviet Union have been founded in recent years. Besides these institutions, weather-forecasting offices have been established to serve the interests of particular branches of the government. Thus the Commissariat of Agriculture spends a million roubles per annum on weather forecasting and employs 1911 persons in connection with this work. (Probably this number includes observers, who have other occupations.) The state railways have their own system of weather stations, 1356 in number, and a forecasting service, the whole costing more than a million roubles a year. The state textile trust, tobacco trust, electric department, education department, etc., have also gone into the weather forecasting business on their several accounts. The central government has lately taken cognizance of this extraordinary situation and a large number of official weathermen will probably soon have to seek other jobs.

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