

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt
but intended for use
July 5, 1928.

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed June 28, 1928.

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

THE "POLAR FRONT" THEORY

Not for several decades has any other idea connected with the art of weather forecasting attracted so much attention as the "polar front" theory, which was developed in Norway during the world war and began to be tentatively utilized in forecasting in other countries shortly after the war ended. According to this theory, the cyclones that are responsible for the constantly varying weather of the temperate zones are produced in each hemisphere along a boundary between masses of "polar" and "equatorial" air. A large literature has grown up concerning the mechanics of this process and its effects on weather.

There has been a good deal of confusion concerning the history of this novel theory. It is based, as to the principles involved, upon the studies of Professor Wilhelm Bjerknes, formerly director of the Geophysical Institute at Bergen, Norway, but its actual discovery and its application in forecasting were due to three assistants at the institute; viz, J. Bjerknes, H. Solberg and T. Bergeron.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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