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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed November 2, 1928

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A LOFTY WEATHER STATION

One of the highest meteorological stations in the world was installed this year near the summit of the Andes, at an altitude of about 10,500 feet above sea level. It is located near the Caracoles station of the Transandine Railway, at the western entrance to the international tunnel that connects Chile and the Argentine Republic.

As the snowfall is very heavy at this place, the screen or shelter containing the self-registering instruments is elevated 13 feet above the ground and is enclosed in double-latticed sides to keep the snow from drifting in. These instruments make a continuous record of barometric pressure, temperature and humidity. The station is also equipped with a wind-vane and a gauge for measuring rain and snow. Results of the observations are telegraphed daily to the Observatorio del Salto at Santiago, Chile, one of the leading weather forecasting institutions of South America.

One of the practical purposes of establishing this station was to aid in getting warning of the storms that affect the operation of the railroad, and another was to promote the development of commercial aviation in the adjacent countries. Probably reports from the station will also be of much value in connection with the regular weather forecasting service of Argentina and will aid in clearing up long-standing questions as to whether and to what extent storms from the Pacific cross the Andes and affect Argentine weather.

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