

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt
but intended for use
January 24, 1929

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed January 17, 1929

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

MORE FREQUENT WEATHER REPORTS

Before the world war weather stations in the United States and Canada that reported the results of their observations by telegraph for use in drawing weather maps and making forecasts sent in these reports only twice a day, and, in some cases, only once a day. In Europe a majority of stations telegraphed reports three times a day.

At the present time there is a marked tendency all over the world to increase the frequency of telegraphic (or radio) weather reports. Thus in the United States the special meteorological services recently organized along airways report conditions several times a day for the benefit of fliers, the most intensive service being that of the New York-Cleveland route, on which certain stations report every hour throughout the day and night.

In Europe, during the world war, ^{reports} at frequent intervals through the day and night were required along the battle fronts for the information of the air service, artillery, gas units, etc. After the war the rise of commercial aviation called for an intensive program of weather reports along airways. At the same time the substitution of radio for wire telegraphy as a means of disseminating weather information facilitated the more frequent reporting of observations. A majority of European stations now report four times a day, and the rest mainly three times, except in the special services maintained for the benefit of aviation, where much more frequent reports are required. On the cross-Channel flying routes there is a system of hourly reports during the day and a few reports at night.

Entirely apart from the needs of aeronautics, frequent weather reports, implying the possibility of keeping close watch of weather changes and of issuing frequent forecasts and warnings, are of such general utility that a schedule of at least four observations and reports a day is likely to become standard practice at telegraphic weather stations within a few years.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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