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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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FREQUENT WEATHER REPORTS

The development of aeronautical weather services implies a much more frequent interchange of reports among weather stations than prevailed before the days of aviation. Along airways certain stations will report local weather conditions once an hour (as is already the practice along the New York-Cleveland airway) while from areas adjacent to the airways reports will be needed at least as often as every three hours.

An important by-product of this intensive service for aeronautics will be its application to other lines of industrial and commercial activity. W.R. Gregg, of the U.S. Weather Bureau, says on this point:

"People have gotten along with forecasts expressed in general terms for 12 to 36 hours in advance, because there was nothing else available. These must be continued, of course, as they serve many purposes, but of much greater utility would be forecasts for short periods in advance couched in more precise and definite terms than are those we now have. Thus anyone asking at 1 p.m. what the weather will be at 3 p.m. would be given a forecast based on reports recently received instead of those of the early morning.

"As airways are extended to include all parts of the country, the secondary nets of reporting stations would provide data for relatively precise short-period forecasts that would vastly increase the utility of the weather service not only for the operation of airways but also for all fields of human endeavor."

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