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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A NEW ERA IN WEATHER REPORTING

Far-reaching and revolutionary are likely to be the results of the establishment of intensive weather-reporting and weather-forecasting services along airways. The issue at frequent intervals every day of weather bulletins and short-period forecasts for a broad strip of territory along an airway may eventually prove to be an undertaking of such value to the community in general that its cost would be justified even if there were no aviation industry to be benefited by it.

An object-lesson in this connection has already been afforded by the history of the airway weather service that was established by the Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics along the route between San Francisco and Los Angeles. The radio bulletins issued primarily for the benefit of aviation have been used to advantage by the Automobile Club of Southern California in advising tourists of the weather likely to be encountered by them in going from place to place, and have also facilitated the Weather Bureau's task of issuing rain forecasts for the protection of California's great fruit-drying industry. A report recently issued by the Fund says:

"Such a service might also give to street-cleaning departments in cities advance information as to snowstorms calling for the expenditure of large sums of money for snow removal. It might also supply valuable information for flood forecasters, and could be used very effectively for giving warnings of the approach of local thunderstorms. It is, in short, of very general benefit to civilization.

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