

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed September 26, 1929

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CANADA'S FIRE WEATHER SERVICE

No recent development in scientific forestry is more striking than the discoveries that have been made concerning more or less definite relations between weather and the incidence of forest fires, together with the elaborate arrangements that now exist for forecasting "fire weather". Much has been published about the researches in this field conducted by the U.S. Weather Bureau and the U.S. Forest Service, and the fire-weather warnings of the former, which were inaugurated in 1914, but very little about corresponding undertakings in Canada.

The Meteorological Service of Canada issues fire-weather forecasts daily during the summer months to the forest protective services in the provinces of British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In connection with this service observations of temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind and the state of the sky are taken several times a day at selected stations, including an observation at 3:30 p.m., the results of which are telegraphed to the central office at Toronto. The hour of 3:30 was chosen because it was found to be about the time of minimum humidity at most places. In the province of Quebec the stations also measure daily the amount of moisture in the duff, or forest litter,

The fire-weather forecast covers two or sometimes three days, and consists of a prediction of temperature, wind direction and force, and humidity tendency; these being the weather elements chiefly concerned with the starting and spread of fires.

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