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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A MINISTRY OF METEOROLOGY?

In the United States the national meteorological service is a branch of the Department of Agriculture. Originally it was under the War Department and at various times there has been talk of transferring it to the Department of Commerce. In Canada the corresponding service is under the Department of Marine and Fisheries. In Great Britain it is under the Air Ministry, but until a few years ago was under the Treasury. In France it is attached to the Ministry of Public Works. The principal meteorological establishment of Italy is under the Ministry of National Economy, but the weather forecasting service is under the Ministry of Aeronautics. In other countries we find meteorology located in still other branches of the governments concerned.

The fact is that weather plays an important part in so many diverse activities of mankind that the assignment of the meteorological service to any existing government department is necessarily arbitrary rather than logical. The idea of making this service an independent branch of the government has been suggested. In a recent public address Mustapha Kemal Pasha, the Turkish dictator, said, in connection with a discussion of the drought problem: "We shall see the day when every nation will have its Ministry of Meteorology."

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