

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed November 15, 1929.

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

WEATHER REPORTS FROM THE PACIFIC

In a general way, the weather of the temperate zones travels from west to east. The weather forecasters of the eastern United States and Canada have always received telegraphic reports from numerous places to the westward on which to base their predictions, but it is only in recent years that the forecasting of weather for the Pacific coast has been based in part upon numerous reports from the west. These are now supplied by radio from vessels on the Pacific.

This valuable service began with reports from a single ship, the "President," of the Pacific Steamship Company, in the year 1907. As recently as ten years ago only twelve vessels were reporting. At present 240 vessels plying the Pacific report the weather by radio twice a day--at 4 a.m. and 4 p.m. Pacific standard time--when within certain prescribed limits. The reports are collected at San Francisco, where they are incorporated in radio bulletins broadcast four times a day.

Vessel reports are included on the weather maps published by the U.S. Weather Bureau stations at San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland and Seattle. They are also transmitted by teletype to the various airway weather stations in the West and are entered on the manuscript weather maps made at airports.

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21st and B Sts.  
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