

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed November 26, 1929.

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Authority on Meteorology.

WEATHER AND STREET-CAR TRAFFIC

According to Prof. Eugene Van Cleef, an analysis of traffic on street-cars in a city of 100,000 inhabitants in the northern United States shows some interesting relations between the volume of such traffic and the state of the weather.

A combination of rain and high wind was especially influential in reducing traffic. Rain without wind had less influence, but snow, with or without wind, was a strong factor in keeping people at home and thus diminishing the receipts of the car company.

A considerable drop in temperature accompanied by a squally wind was next in order in reducing the number of passengers. A strong wind without precipitation or a fall in temperature had little influence.

Least effective in diminishing the number of street-car riders was a marked drop in temperature unaccompanied by any other disagreeable weather element.

"These influences," says Prof. Van Cleef, "were so definite that the street car traffic could be forecast from day to day in accordance with the official Weather Bureau forecast."

SCIENCE SERVICE
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