

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
December 18, 1929.

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed December 11, 1929

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

A LEAGUE OF WEATHERMEN

The meteorological "league of nations" known as the International Meteorological Organization, which serves to tie together the official weather services of the world and to insure uniformity in their methods of operation, grew out of a conference held at Leipzig in 1872. The organization is now constituted as follows:

The fundamental body is the "conference of directors," which meets usually once in six years and held its last meeting at Copenhagen last September. All heads of official meteorological services are members of this body. When two or more mutually independent services exist under one flag they are separately represented. Thus the chief of the U.S. Weather Bureau is a member, and so is the director of the Philippine Weather Bureau. The director of the British Meteorological Office is one of several representatives of the British Empire, the director of the Meteorological Service of Canada being another.

The conference elects the International Meteorological Committee, which at present consists of 21 members, all of whom are members of the conference. This body, in turn, elects a president and a small executive council. The committee generally assembles once in three years. Several "commissions" supervise work in particular fields of activity, such as synoptic meteorology, marine meteorology, cloud observations, etc. The commissions are originally appointed by the conference or the committee, but have power to add members of their own choosing. They meet at intervals of three years or oftener.

Lastly, there is a permanent secretariat, which looks after the correspondence, records and publications of the organization, arranges the meetings, etc. It now has its headquarters in Holland but will move shortly to Switzerland, where it will remain.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE  
21st and B Sts.  
Washington, D.C.