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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed February 17, 1930.

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AN ATLANTIC WEATHER BUREAU

The islands of the Azores, lying far to the west of Europe, have been for many years an outpost of vital importance for the observation of storms and other weather systems approaching the European coast from the Atlantic. Reports from weather stations in the islands were formerly cabled regularly to Europe and are now broadcast by radio.

Now plans have developed for giving the Azores still further importance in international meteorology. By a decree of December, 1928, the Portuguese government authorized the creation at Horta, in the island of Fayal, of the "Meteorological Station of the Atlantic." Powerful radio equipment has been provided for this station, which is to serve as a central point for collecting weather reports from ships all over the North Atlantic. It will also serve as a relay station for transmitting to Europe broadcasts of weather reports from America.

Weather maps of the North Atlantic will be drawn daily at Horta. On the basis of these maps weather forecasts will be broadcast for different parts of the ocean, which has been divided for this purpose into six numbered zones.

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