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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed February 20, 1930

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology

WEATHER AND LIGHTING BILLS

According to C. J. Root, of the United States Weather Bureau, public utility companies in different parts of the United States not infrequently cite the official weather records of their localities, especially those relating to sunshine and temperature, to explain why bills are higher than usual.

A case in point was that of the Light and Power Department of Springfield, Ill. With the statements for last December sent to customers was enclosed a diagram prepared from the records of the local Weather Bureau station, showing the normal cloudiness of November and December and the cloudiness of these two months in 1929, which was considerably in excess of the average.

Below the diagram was the following explanation: "The charts above show the fair and cloudy days normally allotted to the two short-day months of November and December, in contrast to what the two months have actually been. Your electric consumption will undoubtedly show a similar increase comparable to abnormal days of cloudiness."

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