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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed February 26, 1930.

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NEW ARCTIC WEATHER STATIONS

The Russian ice-breaker "Sedov" left Archangel last July, carrying the staff, building materials, supplies and equipment for the world's most northerly weather station, which was established the following month at Calm Bay, Hooker Island, Franz Josef Land, in latitude 80 degrees 19 minutes north, longitude 52 degrees 48 minutes east. The staff of seven men is to be relieved annually, provided ice conditions permit a ship to reach them, and the station is provisioned for three years. The station reports its observations by radio, using a short-wave transmitter, and is also equipped for long-wave reception. Pilot-balloon observations form part of its program for the present year. Later more extensive scientific work will be undertaken and an airplane will be added to the equipment.

The earliest meteorological observations in Franz Josef Land were those taken by ~~the Austrian~~ expedition of 1873-74, under Weyprecht and Payer, and some series have been taken by later expeditions, but none between the year 1914 and last summer. The first radiogram was sent from the new station on August 30, 1929.

Similar radio stations were established last summer by the Russians at Wrangel Island and at Bulun (latitude 70 degrees 45 minutes) on the River Lena, making a total of 11 Russian stations at which weather observations are taken and reported by radio the year round on the shores and islands of the Arctic Ocean.

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