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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed April 29, 1930.

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A LOFTY WEATHER OBSERVATORY

Since the closing many years ago of the observatory operated by the United States government on Pike's Peak, there has been no other weather observatory in the United States or Canada perched so high as that now existing at the summit of Mount Rose, Nevada, 10,800 feet above sea level.

This lofty outlook owes its creation to the enthusiasm of its present director, Prof. J. E. Church, Jr., who teaches Latin at the University of Nevada but is best known to the world at large as a meteorologist. He installed thermometers on the top of this mountain in the summer of 1905 in order to learn something about the temperatures prevailing in the High Sierra. The discovery that frost predictions could be made with considerable certainty from the mountaintop in advance of instrumental indications below led the state authorities to provide a small sum toward erecting an observatory there, and it was completed late in the year 1906.

The building has the shape and furnishings of a small ship's cabin. Unlike most observatories, it is not intended for continuous occupancy but merely for occasional visits. The instruments have, accordingly, been designed to trace automatic records without attention for long periods of time. Records of temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, wind movement, wind direction, sunshine and time are all traced on a single large sheet, and the clockwork that moves this sheet under the recording pens will run for at least two months with one winding.

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