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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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FLYING WEATHER IN THE ARCTIC

In view of the plans now maturing to establish a regular flying service between Canada and the Old World by way of Greenland, the following summary of weather conditions along air routes via the Arctic is timely. It appears in a new edition, just published, of W. R. Gregg's "Aeronautical Meteorology":

"On the whole conditions within the Arctic are quite favorable for flight; far more so than those over the North Atlantic, at any rate during the winter. There are practically no storms and very few high winds over the Polar Basin. The weather is relatively clear except in summer, when considerable fog occurs, but this seldom extends to a height of much more than half a mile. Little precipitation occurs, and the moisture in the atmosphere as a rule is in a form that would seldom result in causing heavy deposits on aircraft. Thunderstorms are rare and in some sections probably do not occur at all. Finally, the existence of an inversion layer (air warmer above than near the surface) at flying levels would prove of distinct advantage to airships, besides rendering travel more comfortable."

The greatest weather obstacles to the proposed flights by way of the Arctic, says the same writer, are found in the regions bordering the Polar Basin. Getting into the Arctic region and out again is a much more difficult problem, from a meteorological standpoint, than flying over that region.

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