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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE STATE OF THE GROUND

A striking recent development in the practical work of the weatherman is the rapid increase in the number of things noted in routine weather observations and reported by telegraph or radio to the forecasting centers. Thus the international code for weather reports has lately been enlarged to include provision for reporting the "state of the ground"; a matter of great importance to aviators and also interesting from the agricultural standpoint. The code prescribes figures for indicating whether the ground is dry, wet, flooded, covered with melting snow, frozen hard and dry, covered with ice, partly covered with snow or hail, etc.

In the British Isles observers report the condition there known as "glazed roads," which occurs when the roads are covered with a continuous sheet of slippery ice, formed in cold rainstorms or from melting snow.

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