

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
February 3, 1931

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed January 27, 1931

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ARCTIC WEATHER STATIONS

Just as, in the southern hemisphere, an outpost for weather observations maintained by the Argentine government at Laurie Island, <sup>in the</sup> subantarctic South Orkneys, is operated by a small party who spend a year in complete isolation -- being then replaced by another party -- so in the far north the Russian Government has a number of weather stations whose staffs are relieved annually. The most northerly is the one established in Franz Josef Land in 1929. These arctic stations, like the one at Laurie Island, are equipped with radio.

Last summer the ice-breaker "Sedov" visited the station in Franz Josef Land, where the seven members of the staff were found in good health. They were replaced by a new staff of ten men and one woman. The latter, the wife of the director, is to conduct biological investigations.

From Franz Josef Land the "Sedov" proceeded through ice fields to the archipelago north of the Taimyr Peninsula formerly known as Emperor Nicholas II Land but now called Severnaya Zemlya (Northern Land). Some previously unknown islands were discovered, including a group of small ones to which the name Kamenev Islands was given, and in one of these a new station was established, in latitude 79 degrees 24 minutes North and longitude 91 degrees 3 minutes <sup>East.</sup> Four men were left here, with provisions for three years.

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21st and B Streets  
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