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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed April 7, 1931

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GREAT LAKES STORM SIGNALS

Along the shores of the Great Lakes 82 stations for the display of visual storm signals are maintained by the U. S. Weather Bureau and 33 by the Meteorological Service of Canada; the daytime signals, being flags at the United States stations and geometrical figures (cones and drums) at the Canadian stations. Red and white lanterns are displayed by both services at night.

As storm warnings for the lakes have been regularly broadcast by radio for a number of years it may seem strange that the older and less efficient method of keeping mariners informed of coming storms is still retained, but there is a good reason for this. Of the 875 large commercial vessels on the Great Lakes only about 300 are equipped with radio, leaving a decided majority still dependent upon the old-fashioned signals. There are, moreover, numerous tugs, fishing boats, yachts and other small craft that have no radio with which to receive the broadcast warnings.

Vessels on Lakes Superior and Huron carrying radiotelegraph transmitters reciprocate the service they receive from the weather forecasters by notifying the Weather Bureau stations at Duluth and Sault Ste. Marie of the weather conditions encountered by them on the open lakes. This information is transmitted to vessels in port.

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