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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed October 1, 1931

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WEATHER FORECASTS BY FLASHLIGHT

Various have been the methods of disseminating daily weather forecasts. One of the most remarkable was employed for a time in New England, beginning in September, 1892. An electric searchlight, of the type used in the navy, was installed on the summit of Mount Washington and arrangements were made with the Weather Bureau to have the official forecasts telegraphed daily to the mountaintop from Boston. Each evening the forecast was flashed over the surrounding country in accordance with the following code:

Flashes	Meaning
One long	Fair weather
Two long	Rain or snow
Three long	Local rains
One short	Colder
Two short	Warmer
Three short	Frost warning

The long flashes for weather were given first. When no short flashes were given, stationary temperature was indicated. The flashes were directed to different points of the compass in succession, and when the circle was completed they were repeated to avoid chance of misunderstanding. They were at times visible at a distance of fifty miles.

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