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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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INDUSTRIAL METEOROLOGY

A large and valuable book might be written on the relations of weather to commerce and industry. Whoever undertakes to write such a book would do well to explore the correspondence files of official meteorological institutions, here and abroad, for the immensely varied information that has been supplied by these establishments in response to questions received from business men. Here are a few specimen queries that have received the attention of the Weather Bureau in Washington:

A large engineering firm wanted to know the average dates limiting the period when concreting can be done safely without special cold-weather equipment in all parts of the United States; also the extreme dates in exceptional years.

A manufacturer of "flexible glue" required temperature data for all parts of the country, as this product must be made differently for use in different climates.

A chemical manufacturer wanted to know of a place in the United States, with railroad facilities and a fair labor supply, having the lightest possible rainfall and the driest air throughout the year; these being the ideal conditions for a plant he intended to establish.

A post and fence dealer wanted to know at what time in the fall the ground freezes in different parts of the United States.

A dealer in summer clothing, including straw hats, bathing-suits, etc., asked for data with which to combat the idea that retailers should not buy a straw hat after July 1 or a bathing-suit after July 15; also for weather records that might help abolish the arbitrary custom of discarding straw hats on the first of September in New York and other northern cities.

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