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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE SOUTHERNMOST WEATHER STATION

There are several permanent meteorological stations north of the Arctic Circle; the northernmost being the one maintained by the Russians in Franz Josef Land, which is equipped with radio and has a staff of nine persons. A favorite project of Sir Hubert Wilkins is the establishment of such stations on the Antarctic continent, but none yet exists there or anywhere else within the Antarctic Circle.

At present the southernmost weather station as well as the southernmost permanently inhabited spot on the globe is found in Laurie Island, one of the South Orkneys. Employees of the Argentine Meteorological service take turns in being its sole inhabitants. This lonely outpost of science, which is hemmed in most of the year by ice, was established by the Scottish Antarctic Expedition of 1903-04. The expedition turned it over to the Argentine government, which has maintained it ever since. Three observers and a cook are sent out each year to man the station, relieving the party sent the year before. The shift takes place in February and this is the only time the island is ever visited. The station has had a radio outfit since 1927, and now reports weather conditions twice a day to Buenos Aires.

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