

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
March 21, 1932

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed March 14, 1932

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

WEATHER FORECAST TERMS

There has always been considerable uncertainty in the minds of many people as to the meanings of the terms habitually employed by the Weather Bureau in its daily predictions, and the Bureau has now endeavored to meet the need of precise information on this subject by formulating definitions of all such terms. Here are a few of them:

"Clear." No precipitation; sky free or nearly free from clouds.

"Fair." No precipitation, but the character of the sky may range from clear to partly cloudy.

"Partly cloudy." No precipitation, but some cloudiness.

"Mostly cloudy." Sky overcast, but occasional breaks of considerable duration.

"Cloudy." No precipitation, but overcast sky.

"Unsettled." Considerable cloudiness and threatening weather, with very little or no precipitation.

"Rain." Precipitation of comparatively long duration, as distinguished from showers, such as frequently occur in the summer.

"Showers." Intermittent rainfall of comparatively short duration.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

-----  
SCIENCE SERVICE  
21st and Constitution Ave.  
Washington, D. C.