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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ARTIFICIAL WEATHER EFFECTS

The installation of an air-cooling system in the United States Capitol, at Washington, has called forth the following satirical remarks from one of the American technical journals:

"Years ago the coming of summer was looked upon by American business men as the greatest blessing they could expect from a Divine Providence that orders all things well. For then Congress, compelled by its own physical discomfort, would adjourn. Anyone who has suffered the enervating heat that belabors the seat of our government has joyously agreed that even a congressman could not endure the frying that he experienced in Washington while passing laws that would make things hotter for the rest of us. So, with the coming of the torrid summer, the sweating legislators cast longing glances at the cool hinterland and promptly adjourned, to their intense relief and that of a worried nation. But this mechanized age has changed all that. Not content with mechanizing our daily lives, the mind of man has turned to the production of machine-made weather, with the result that his product, as so often happens, is superior to the brand usually delivered from on high. The present evil state of the country, therefore, may be due to an elaborate and highly efficient system of supplying conditioned air that has been installed in the halls of Congress."

All of which gives us something to think about. We may disagree diametrically with the uncomplimentary opinion of American law-makers implied in the above remarks, and yet admit that the new art of air-cooling may have far-reaching economic and social effects upon mankind. Natural climate has always played a mighty rôle in human affairs. Why should not artificial climate do likewise?

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