

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE WEATHER MAPS

The earliest daily weather maps were prepared before the days of telegraphy and hence could not be made available promptly enough for use in forecasting. They contributed greatly, however, to the progress of meteorological knowledge, and in more recent times there have been a number of notable undertakings in the preparation of such maps from data collected by deliberate methods, with a view to their use in the scientific investigation of atmospheric processes.

The latest enterprise in this line has just been launched under the auspices of the International Meteorological Organization, as a part of the International Polar Year program. The exceptionally wide distribution of weather stations during the period from August 1, 1932, to August 31, 1933, is to be made the occasion of preparing and publishing daily weather maps of the entire northern hemisphere covering that period, and the execution of the maps has been undertaken by Germany's leading meteorological observatory, the Deutsche Seewarte, in Hamburg. The maps will show conditions prevailing at Greenwich noon of each day.

These charts, which will be drawn from data assembled by mail, will, of course, depict conditions long past and gone, but they will surpass in fullness and accuracy any charts of contemporary weather events as prepared by the telegraphic process. They will doubtless represent the high-water mark now attainable in the mapping of weather.

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21st and Constitution Ave.  
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