

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
February 15, 1933

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed February 8, 1933

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THE DAILY WEATHER FORECAST

The practical value of daily weather forecasts varies from one part of the world to another. It is least in the tropics, where the weather changes little from one day to the next, and it is probably greatest of all in the northern United States and southern Canada in winter, because the movements of winter storms in that region bring a succession of abrupt temperature changes unrivaled throughout the world.

Chicago has witnessed the phenomenon of a day in November on which a man was prostrated by the heat followed by one when two men were frozen to death. So, at least, the story runs, and it is not unbelievable, for on the days in question, November 11 and 12, 1911, the temperature fell 61 degrees within 24 hours. The late Professor Cox, who was then in charge of the Chicago weather station, told me that on the eleventh a dealer had planned to ship a large quantity of ink out of the city. As the season was early and the weather mild it was loaded in ordinary box cars. Just before the shipment was to leave the merchant saw a cold wave flag hoisted on a neighboring building. He telephoned to the freight office and stopped the shipment in time to save the loss of several thousand dollars.

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