

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
November 2, 1933

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed October 26, 1933

SEASONAL WEATHER PREDICTION

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

The prediction in general terms of the weather of coming seasons is still in the stage of experiment, but the undertaking is viewed rather more hopefully nowadays by the professional weather men than it was a generation ago. The method most widely favored is based upon supposed interactions of atmospheric phenomena observed at different times in widely separated parts of the world. The classic example is the annual official forecast of monsoon rainfall in India, obtained by correlating weather records of previous months from various other regions, including some as far away as South America.

This system of "foreshadowing" future seasons, as meteorologists now call it, seems to have attained the highest percentages of success -- still everywhere too low to make it of much practical value -- in tropical and subtropical countries, but it has been employed to some extent elsewhere. Thus C.F. Brooks of Harvard University, following the lead of Fritz Groissmayr, in Germany, has for some years attempted to predict the prevailing winter weather of the Canadian prairies from records of conditions occurring the previous summer in India and other remote regions.

Many undertakings in this field have scored decidedly more hits than misses, and that, for the present, is the best that can be said for them.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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