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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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AMERICAN WEATHER CHIEFS

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

The recent appointment of a new Chief of the United States Weather Bureau makes it timely to mention the few men who have previously directed meteorological affairs for the United States Government.

A federal weather service was organized in 1870, under the Signal Corps of the Army, and its first head was Brigadier General Albert J. Myer, Chief Signal Officer, familiarly known to the American public as "Old Probabilities." General Myer was succeeded in 1880 by General W.B. Hazen, and the latter in 1887, by General A.W. Greely, of Arctic fame.

In 1891 the weather service was transferred from the Army to the Agricultural Department, and the first Chief of the Weather Bureau was Prof. Mark W. Harrington, who was summoned to that post from the chair of astronomy at the University of Michigan. In 1895 he was removed from office in consequence of disagreements with the Secretary of Agriculture. His successor was Willis L. Moore, who, after a picturesque and stormy career, was likewise relegated to private life in 1913. After an interregnum of some months, he was followed by Prof. Charles F. Marvin, who had long been Chief of the Weather Bureau's Instrument Division and a well-known authority on meteorological apparatus. Prof. Marvin, having passed the retiring age, relinquished his office at the end of last January, but will remain in the Bureau for a time in an advisory capacity, and to carry on research work. His successor is Willis R. Gregg, heretofore Chief of the Bureau's Aerological Division, who has been conspicuously identified with aeronautical meteorology for many years and is the author of the standard textbook on that subject.

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