

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
June 18, 1934

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed June 11, 1934

WEATHER-OBSERVING OUTPOSTS

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The northernmost permanently inhabited spot on the globe is Hooker Island, in the Franz Josef Land archipelago, some 900 miles north of the Arctic Circle, and its sole inhabitants are the staff of a Russian weather station. Laurie Island, in the South Orkneys, on the verge of the Antarctic, is the most southerly place where human beings live year after year, and here again the only inhabitants are the men who run a weather station. It belongs to the meteorological service of Argentina. Both the Russian and Argentine stations are ice-bound and inaccessible most of the year.

Considering their prevalence elsewhere, it is rather remarkable that no permanent stations for observing weather exist, as yet, on the Antarctic continent. Admiral Peary dreamed of erecting one at the South Pole, and Sir Hubert Wilkins has long urged the establishment of several along the Antarctic coasts.

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