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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed Nov. 21, 1934

ARCTIC LANDS

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"The whole land area within the Arctic Circle," writes John Mathieson in the Scottish Geographical Magazine, "cannot be described as Arctic in the strict sense, for the Arctic Circle only determines temperature to a limited extent. Thus Arctic conditions are virtually absent in the 144,000 square miles lying within the Arctic Circle in Norway, Sweden and Finland. On the other hand, Greenland is throughout Arctic though it touches latitude 60 degrees North; so also is the Bering Strait area, though it extends to the south of the Circle. This is also true of Labrador, despite the latitude. The coldest areas are within Siberia and Canada. Of the total land area at least 800,000 square miles are covered with ice, the largest glaciated area being found in Greenland where the ice seems to be over 8000 ft. thick. Much of the exposed surface is frozen to a considerable depth. Thus borings in the Yukon show that frost penetrates to 220 ft., similar figures for Siberia being 382 ft. and Spitsbergen 1000 ft. Precipitation is small, totaling about 11 inches, and the glaciers seem everywhere in retreat."

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