

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
March 18, 1935

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed March 11, 1935

THE BAROMETRIC TENDENCY

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman
Authority on Meteorology

The weatherman applies the term "barometric tendency" to the amount of rise or fall of the barometer that has occurred during the three hours preceding a regular observation. Barometric tendencies are reported by weather stations and are charted on a map. Lines called "isallobars" are then drawn connecting places reporting the same amount of change, upward or downward, as the case may be. A chart of isallobars is a valuable supplement to the ordinary weather map, on which "isobars" connect places having the same barometer reading at the hour of observation, and then outline the areas known as "highs" and "lows."

One of the chief problems of the forecaster is to decide in which direction a low will move. In a majority of cases the direction of its movement is toward the place where, as shown on the isallobaric chart, the recent fall of pressure has been greatest; provided this place is not too far away from the low.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE
2101 Constitution Ave.
Washington, D.C.