

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed March 27, 1935

PRAYERS AT A PRICE

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Authority on Meteorology.

During a severe drought in Australia many years ago several people wrote to the government of that country offering to pray for rain if paid for doing so. Recently a man wrote to the President of the United States from a place in the eastern part of the country stating that he would pray for rain in the drought-stricken middle west if provided transportation thither. His letter was referred to the meteorological branch of the government and elicited a courteous reply. He was thanked for his offer, but the suggestion was made that the earnestness of a prayer is generally believed to be more important than the place where it is made. Hence it would be unfair to ask him to take an unnecessary journey; to say nothing of the fact that no existing appropriation of public funds could be legally drawn upon to pay his traveling expenses.

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