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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WEATHER AND STREET-CAR TRAFFIC

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Authority on Meteorology

According to Prof. Eugene Van Cleef, an analysis of traffic on street-cars in a city of 100,000 inhabitants in the northern United States shows some interesting relations between the volume of such traffic and the state of the weather.

A combination of rain and high wind was especially influential in reducing traffic. Rain without wind had less influence, but snow, with or without wind, was a strong factor in keeping people at home and thus diminishing the receipts of the car company.

A considerable drop in temperature accompanied by a squally wind was next in order in reducing the number of passengers. A strong wind without precipitation or a fall in temperature had little influence.

Least effective in diminishing the number of street-car riders was a marked drop in temperature unaccompanied by any other disagreeable weather element.

"These influences," says Prof. Van Cleef, "were so definite that the street-car traffic could be forecast from day to day in accordance with the official Weather Bureau forecast."

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