

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
Sept. 16, 1935

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed Sept. 9, 1935

THE WEATHERMAN'S OUTLOOK

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

Both for weather prediction and for the study of atmospheric processes the meteorologist needs to know the state of the atmosphere at a given moment of time over a large area of the earth's surface. Ideally, his outlook should be world-wide and should include a vertical dimension. The need of this broad vista began to be realized about a century ago, when science awoke to the fact that the weather at any particular place is intimately connected with and dependent upon that prevailing at surrounding places, far and near.

In the year 1845 Prof. Elias Loomis, of New York University, was endeavoring to chart storms (long after their occurrence, as there were then no telegraphic weather reports) from data supplied by about 160 observers in the United States. He wrote to Lt. Col. Sabine, in England:

"In order to exhibit a complete analysis of a storm, we need observations embracing its whole extent; otherwise we are obliged to supply deficiencies by conjecture. But almost all our great winter storms project over the British possessions to the north of us to an unknown extent."

Today the kind of information Loomis wanted is supplied by a great network of weather stations extending north, in Canada and Alaska, beyond the Arctic Circle.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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