
A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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"RAIN CHECKS" ON RAILROADS

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman
Authority on Meteorology

Gambling on weather takes a variety of forms. Weather insurance, now practiced on a vast scale, is a gamble, and a particularly large element of risk and uncertainty is involved in insurance against rain. A kind of rain insurance is described in a recent number of the Canadian National Railways Magazine by F. J. Gemnell-Smith.

It appears that last summer a railway company in France provided the buyers of excursion tickets with guarantees against their summer outings being spoiled by Mr. J. Pluvius. On payment of a small supplementary charge every patron was assured of a refund of the cost of his ticket if 3 millimetres (0.12 inch) or more of rain were registered on the date of travel by the company's gauges at Boulogne and Le Tréport.

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