

Work of the Weather Bureau

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Through the agency of the Weather Bureau, 2,000,000 American farmers are placed in telephonic communication every day with hundreds of trained observers in the ends of the earth whose combined knowledge and experience enable them to tell these farmers how to care for their crops. Through the same agency the mariners of the United States are warned of the dangers of approaching storms. Through the same agency the dwellers in great river valleys are cautioned when there is a flood descending upon them.

The Associated Press is looked upon as being the greatest information collecting agency in the world. But does the Associated Press hear each day from Seydlitz Island, Iceland? The Weather Bureau does. Also from St. Petersburg in Russia, from Irkutsk in Siberia, from the Azores Islands, from the Bermudas, from the British Isles, from nearly every country in Europe, from the West Indies, from scores of places in Mexico, from scores in Canada, and from more than 200 cities in the United States.

The information which comes to the central office of the Weather Bureau in Washington from all these places enables the forecaster to venture a prediction about what the weather will be for the next thirty-six or forty-eight hours. Sometimes the forecaster does not hit it, and there is a pretty general disposition among readers of newspapers in cities to sneer at "Old Prob." The fruit grower of Florida, the cranberry grower of New Jersey, the mariner of the Great Lakes, the tobacco planter of the middle South—these and many other classes of Americans remember how many millions of dollars the Weather Bureau's predictions have saved them. They do not sneer. Those persons who have been induced to move back from the banks of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers because of the Weather Bureau's flood warning, and have seen the height of the flood's crest predicted to within a few inches, days and even weeks in advance—they do not sneer.

Every daily newspaper in the United States prints each day the official weather forecast. If it is left out by accident the subscribers are sure to register a kick. The forecast cards are sent to thousands and thousands of persons to whom they will get in time to be of benefit, and are needed in many instances which can be reached by them. Little cards with the forecast stamped on them are sent out from central-post-offices along every rural free delivery route in the country where the carrier leaves late enough in the day to carry that day's forecast. Through the medium of the newspapers, the flags and lanterns displayed, and the cards posted, every city dweller in the United States may have the benefit of the weather forecast without any particular effort or expense.

But the farmer is the man who needs the information most, and it is to reach the farmer that Prof. Willis L. Moore and his assistants are striving. The telephone has solved the problem in the Middle West and along the Atlantic coast. Its rapid extension through rural districts makes it increasing insurance each day. Telephone companies are requested to add the bureau in the dissemination of this useful information. Most of them gladly accede. Some of them refuse and want money. Those who go in for co-operation, advertise the connection with the weather service as a feature to induce farmers to become telephone subscribers. The telephone service is managed in this fashion: The nearest office weather office telephones to the central office of the telephone system the forecast, it is then distributed to each central exchange in the system, and "central" ever-obliging, will tell you the weather outlook may be. In case of a hurricane or cold wave warning, there is a general call and each subscriber is informed, so that he may have ample time to protect himself, his stock, and his crops.

It is a cold wave warning, the citrus grower in Florida or California, who fears the calamity of a frost, will protect his orange and lemon trees by building smudge fires and making a cloud of smoke that will hang like a mantle over the orchard and prevent frost. If it is the cranberry grower of New Jersey or Wisconsin, he will flood his bogs and go to sleep, for only a heavy freeze can hurt his crop. If it is the tobacco planter, he will cover his young plants with canvas and keep out the cold. The strawberry grower will throw straw over his beds. All of them will even the result, for Uncle Sam's Weather Bureau has heard from the four corners of the world that day; it has found where the storms are, and in what direction they are traveling; where the "low" atmospheric pressures are, and where those centers are traveling; and from all this the bureau has deduced the information which has saved that farmer's years' work from destruction. Does the farmer sneer at "Old Prob." Not much.

The 200 regularly equipped observatories in the country are supplemented by more than 3,000 voluntary co-operative stations at which temperature and rainfall observations are taken. Besides the daily weather forecasts, based upon the observations taken twice daily, at 8 a. m. and 8 p. m., Washington time, the Weather Bureau issues a daily map from each of its principal stations showing in detail the atmospheric conditions over the country obtaining each morning. A monthly weather review is issued, showing the weather conditions for the month over the United States and adjoining countries, and containing elaborate meteorological charts and tables. In the climatological service there are forty-four sections, nearly corresponding to the States of the Union, and these compile and publish each month bulletins showing in detail the climatic conditions for the month of each of the States. In addition to these, the bureau issues occasional bulletins containing the larger reports made by the experts in the various branches of the service.

Scientific knowledge and mechanical ingenuity have combined to give the weather student the use of the most delicate and accurate instruments for measuring and recording the atmospheric pressure, the temperature, the direction and velocity of the wind, the variations of sunshine and clouds, the fall of rain or snow. The barometer on the roof of a high building records with exactness every variation of the atmospheric pressure on a continuous record in the office below it. And so, with the thermometers and other instruments, of which there are many types, and the number of which are constantly increasing. There is such a thing as a self-recording sun dial, which keeps a record of the sunlight and clouds for a month at a time on blue print paper. At the volunteer stations the rainfall is

measured in a simple rain-gauge, which has a funnel shaped mouth leading into a vessel of exactly one-tenth the superficial area of the mouth of the funnel. The water in this vessel is measured, and if there is ten inches of water in it, the rainfall has been one inch. At the most important stations, the rainfall is measured by self-recording instruments which are graduated to one-hundredth of an inch.

The Weather Bureau costs Uncle Sam about \$1,500,000 a year. Over against this may be set the fact that a single cold wave warning once saved \$3,500,000 worth of property, that a flood warning saved \$15,000,000 worth of property and many lives in the Mississippi Valley, that storm warnings displayed one day detained in port coast vessels with their cargoes, valued at \$30,000,000, which otherwise would have had to reckon with one of the most terrific hurricanes ever known on the Atlantic.

The daily service of weather predictions was begun in the United States in 1850 by the Signal Corps of the army, and at first was designed to aid the navigators of the Great Lakes and the Atlantic coast. Its scope and purpose were gradually enlarged, and in 1881 it became a branch of the Department of Agriculture under the name of the Weather Bureau. Under the army regime the heads of the service were Gens. Myer, Drum, Hazen, and Greely, and under the Department of Agriculture, Prof. Harrington and Moore. Prof. Moore, the present chief, has been conducting the affairs of the bureau since July, 1896. The work of the service has grown constantly, and in the past few years, thanks to rural free delivery and the telephone, it has increased its scope to a wonderful degree. Each day the observations taken the day before are added to the stock of knowledge of the experts, and with each day the knowledge arising from independent knowledge are fewer. The service is becoming more and more efficient, and while it never will be perfect and infallible, it is destined to have a great share in the continued prosperity of the country.

To the United States belongs much of the credit for the development of the science of meteorology. Benjamin Franklin, by means of his own observations and his private correspondence, found that storms moved northeastward from Philadelphia toward New England. Thomas Jefferson at Monticello, and James Madison at Williamsburg, in Virginia, took a series of simultaneous observations in the years 1772-1777, and certain conclusions were drawn from them, so that the belief took shape that storms had a certain progressive movement, and a whirling motion at the center, the foundation of the science as it is known today. About the same time two French scientists proposed to establish stations over a large territory and to take observations to discover the rules of the storm king's court.

But it was the invention of the telegraph that made the plans practicable. Prof. Joseph Henry, of the Smithsonian Institution, who had aided in the perfection of the telegraph, began to draw weather maps, and as early as 1836 he displayed them each day at the institution in Washington. The civil war interrupted the work in America. In 1867 France began the publication of daily weather maps, which has been kept up ever since. Seven years thereafter the United States began to issue its daily maps. Now the American meteorologists rank at the head among the scientists of the world. What a difference there is between those days when science kept to its proud aristocrat, and these days when she calls up 2,000,000 farmers over the telephone to help them with their work!

To-morrow—Our National Parks.

A PRACTICAL APRON FOR A GIRL.

If it is a cold wave warning, the citrus grower in Florida or California, who fears the calamity of a frost, will protect his orange and lemon trees by building smudge fires and making a cloud of smoke that will hang like a mantle over the orchard and prevent frost. If it is the cranberry grower of New Jersey or Wisconsin, he will flood his bogs and go to sleep, for only a heavy freeze can hurt his crop. If it is the tobacco planter, he will cover his young plants with canvas and keep out the cold. The strawberry grower will throw straw over his beds. All of them will even the result, for Uncle Sam's Weather Bureau has heard from the four corners of the world that day; it has found where the storms are, and in what direction they are traveling; where the "low" atmospheric pressures are, and where those centers are traveling; and from all this the bureau has deduced the information which has saved that farmer's years' work from destruction. Does the farmer sneer at "Old Prob." Not much.

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THE OPTIMIST.

Oscar Hammerstein is a great impresario. With implicit faith in his ability to do things, he has in the short space of two years become a national figure with his fine new opera house in New York, and his vast array of famous singers.

Two years ago he was best known as the owner of the Victoria Theater, a place where vaudeville was given, and where it is still given under his son's management. Two and forty years ago he landed in the metropolis with a strange tongue and no money. He had run away from his home in Germany because his father whipped him with a skate strap, and he worked his way across the ocean in a sailing vessel.

He became a cigarmaker. He invented machines to do what had always before been done by hand, and these brought him in something. And of nights he would climb the long flights of stairs to the top gallery in the old Academy of Music, and drink in the singing of Patti, as if he had, indeed, got to the real heaven.

Between those days and these is strung a medley of experiences, gains and losses, ups and downs, such as mark almost every active career. And yet, when you hear men and women talk about Oscar Hammerstein to-day, you do not hear such of these things. They are occupied with the success; his sudden rise into the front rank of those daring few who deal in the realm of amusements—opera.

And many a man who reads of this man and his present success gets a grouch on, and wonders why he hasn't had better luck, and why fate hasn't been kinder to him?

Does any man wait patiently thirty-seven years to get the thing he wants? Because that's what Oscar Hammerstein has done. Oh, yes, it sounds fine enough now, after he got that thing his heart desired, to tell of the wait and the struggles attendant thereon, but would you be willing to wait so long for the thing you desire?

Bring it right down to your own case. Get at the kernel of the matter. You know it's very foolish to complain that fate is using you wrongly. Fate doesn't use you at all; you use fate. And back of all success you will find things that are just as easily within your reach as the ultimate result seems now to be without your reach.

It's a great thing to learn to wait. Shakespeare says in "Othello" that he who has not patience is poor, indeed. And he who has neither patience nor persistence is a pauper of paupers.

We live in a rather rapid age, but it is just as necessary to wait nowadays as it ever was, and nothing of lasting worth is to be gained by dashing ahead like a four-cylinder, 40-horsepower red thing. There are a great many corners to be turned in life, and it's somewhat dangerous to approach them at high speed. Work and wait. That's the way to get to the mountain tops.

Oscar Hammerstein didn't have half the advantages the average poor American boy has. Even to-day he cannot speak English as well as the ordinary ten-year-old. But advantages count for nothing at all if we do not make good use of them. And every one of us, down to the poorest and least favored, has advantages which will lead to something better if we make the best possible use of them.

But are we willing to wait thirty-seven years? Or even twenty-five? There's the rub. We are impatient. We want to plant seeds to-day and pull full-grown radishes to-morrow. No matter how old we grow, most of us view life as we viewed the little gardens we made when children. We have to be pulling up the sprouts to see how the thing is growing underground.

We must learn to wait if we would get anywhere at all, and the longer we can wait, why, the farther we are apt to go. LEIGH MITCHELL HODGES.

Taft to Speak at Tulsa, Okla.

Secretary Taft has accepted an invitation to attend the State convention of the Oklahoma Republicans, June 6, at Tulsa, and will make a Republican speech, outlining and defending administration policies.

PURCHASES HEINE HOUSE.

Anton Ostman Pays William Miller, Jr., \$20,000 for Property.

Anton Ostman has purchased from William Miller, Jr., the residence property on Brightwood road known as the Heine house. The property was bought by Mr. Miller a year or more ago from the Heine estate, remodeled and improved, the renovation extending to the surrounding grounds. The lot has a frontage of 100 feet by 290 feet deep. The price paid is understood to be \$20,000.

Mr. Miller and his father, William Miller, will soon begin the erection of two semi-detached houses on the property adjoining the elder Mr. Miller's home, just south of the Heine property. The proposed houses will be two-story and basement structures, built of brick in the colonial style.

George L. Goodacre is preparing to erect at 221 Ninth street northwest a four-story hotel. The location is on the east side of Ninth street, near the corner of the Y. M. C. A. building, where a front of New York avenue. The lot is 28 feet front by 91 feet deep. The front of the first floor will be occupied by a restaurant with bar and dining-rooms. It will be a men's hotel, with five and six sleeping apartments. It will be built of brick, with stone trimmings. William Basin prepared the plans, and Blundin & Simons are the builders.

Funeral of Rev. H. Hinton.

Conducted by Charles H. Hinton. Sterrett, president of the Society of Philosophical Inquiry, the burial services of Charles H. Hinton were held in the chapel of J. William Lee yesterday afternoon. As Mr. Hinton died suddenly last Tuesday night while attending a banquet in the Y. M. C. A. building, several representatives of that organization attended the funeral, with many employees of the Patent Office, where he was employed as assistant examiner of patents. The body was cremated.

PLAN BIG CONGRESS

Officials Organizing Tuberculosis Conference.

MEET HERE SEPTEMBER, 1907

Distinguished Scientists, Savants, and Doctors of the World to Be in Attendance—Offices Opened in Washington by National Association—Millionaires Backing Scheme.

During the last ten days of September and the first ten days of October, 1907, a large number of distinguished men from all parts of the world, physicians, hygienists, ecologists, and humanitarians, will assemble in Washington to discuss the problem of tuberculosis. This great gathering will be organized under the name of the International Congress on Tuberculosis. It will number several thousand members and delegates, and the visitors to Washington on account of the congress will number thousands more.

The directors and council of the National Association include the most noted authorities on tuberculosis in this country, and they are, besides, wise men in public affairs. They expect to have a tuberculosis exhibition, which, up to its interesting in Washington, will discuss the problem of tuberculosis. This great gathering will be organized under the name of the International Congress on Tuberculosis. It will number several thousand members and delegates, and the visitors to Washington on account of the congress will number thousands more.

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The work of organizing the international congress has been intrusted by the National Association to a special committee of six well-known medical men, who will add to their number up to twenty members. The committee at present includes Dr. Lawrence Flick, of Philadelphia; Dr. Vincent Y. Bowditch, of Boston; Dr. Alfred Meyer, of New York; Dr. J. J. Walsh, of Philadelphia; Dr. Lawrence Litchfield, of Pittsburgh; Dr. Charles J. Lawrence, of Philadelphia; and Dr. John S. Fulton, of Baltimore, who has opened an office in the Colorado Building, in Washington, and will devote all his time to the organization of the congress.

Such men as H. Erick, Henry Phelps, Henry L. Higginson, George Maloney, William P. Henszey, and George Blumenthal are giving financial support to the movement. The last international congress met in Paris in 1895, and the American delegates invited the congress to hold the next meeting in the United States. Mr. Roosevelt seconded the invitation, through Mr. McCormick, the Ambassador to France, and the invitation was accepted with a great demonstration of enthusiasm. The government of Philadelphia, through the National Association, the chief sponsor for the congress, lays a hand upon it.

The committee has invited the governors of all the States, requesting them, in turn, to invite their municipalities and other local agencies, either directly or through some department of State government. By this means the committee hopes to have the States participate as units.

The International Congress will cost a good deal of money. The National Association will provide a fund of \$100,000, and this sum will come chiefly from the private gifts of wealthy men. Public officials in more than a dozen States are already active in anticipation of the congress, so that the task of organization is found in a growing state before the National Association, the chief sponsor for the congress, lays a hand upon it.

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AMUSEMENTS.

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