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## FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS

### An Interesting Chat with Uncle Sam's Weather Bureau Man



TO MOST children the weather man is a sort of mythical individual who exists "somewhere" for the sole purpose of conjuring up bad spells of weather to prevent persons from enjoying themselves, for, generally speaking, it is only when the weather is exceedingly bad that one thinks of the weather man at all, and then only to wonder how he can be so unkind as to spoil everyone's fun.

But the weather man is a very real personage after all, with headquarters Uncle Sam has provided for him in the national capitol at Washington, D. C., and branch bureaus in various parts of the country in charge of lieutenants, who forecast the weather for their own especial locality.

varies the weather according as it is used above or below any of the three described. For example, if used above the fair weather flag it denotes fair and warmer; if below, fair and colder. If above the rain or snow symbol, it means rain or snow, warmer, and if below, colder. It is the same with the third flag—the local rain or snow device.

A cold wave is indicated by a flag with a black square on a white ground. In addition to these there are a set of storm warnings which are indicated by red flags and pennants. The most striking of all is the hurricane warning, which sends terror to the heart of the mariner when he sees it. This consists of two red flags with black squares displayed one above the other, and it indicates the approach of a tropical hurricane or one of those extremely severe and dangerous storms which occasionally move across the lakes and Atlantic coast. One of these flags



AS THE NORTHERN WEATHER MAN SEES IT

There is an anemometer to register the velocity of the wind; the telethermograph, which records the temperature; rain gauges, which register the fall to the one-thousandth of an inch, and many other equally interesting inventions, a description of which calls for expert knowledge.

High up at the top of the weather tower, which resembles the fighting mast of a battleship, these instruments are kept. Here, also, are stored the weather flags, with messengers in attendance to run them up on a fifty-foot flagpole the minute a change takes place, so that they may be seen by vessels coming up the bay or departing outward bound, or by any boys or girls who take the trouble to raise their eyes to see; that is if they are familiar with the various symbols peculiar to the service.

There are three weather flags which, used in connection with black pennants, vary with the general conditions which they represent. For fair weather there is very properly, a white flag, for rain or snow a white and blue flag, the bars running lengthwise. The black pennant

alone indicates that a storm of marked violence is expected.

Together with one of the hurricane flags there is used a set of pennants, which, displayed in certain combinations, indicate the direction of the wind. For instance, if a red pennant is used above a hurricane or storm flag it still means that the storm is coming, but also that it will be accompanied by northeast winds. When the red pennant is used below, the winds are southeast. If a white pennant is displayed above the storm flag, then the winds are northwest, and if below, southwest.

Now, the weather man, knowing the velocity of the wind and its direction, can then figure out just about how long it will take for the storm to reach here. In addition to the land messages Weather Forecaster James Scarr of New York gets daily reports from 2,000 vessels, and he is now perfecting arrangements with the wireless companies of different countries whereby the bureau will receive daily reports from trans-Atlantic steamships on their way across the ocean. Five or six reports will be received each morning.