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TERMS

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Long Range Forecasts of Weather.

The Newton of Meteorology has not yet appeared above the scientific horizon. The world awaits his coming and his power to bring order and law from this chaos of an almost illimitable number of observations. While the expert meteorologist of the Central Observatories throughout the world are patiently, laboriously collecting and tabulating the observed phenomena of the weather, and deducing therefrom the forecasts of the probable weather for 24 to 48 hours in advance, and succeeding to as high a degree as 85 per cent of verifications of the same; there are others who enter the arena or this embryonic science and boldly challenge the experts to a duel in forecasting.

The ordinary short time forecast is not to be considered. This does not appeal to the imagination, it is not sufficiently ingenious, it is too commonplace and utilitarian. It smacks too much of the every day working world of men and women. A long range forecast is chosen as the weapon of these Don Quixotes of science, to break down the sturdy mills that grind out only the common every day forecast. The latter being published in nearly every newspaper in the land, spread over every postal route, every rural delivery route, displayed on every available weather bureau flagstaff and known to all men, women and children who can read and see. The resulting experience up to date, has been analogous to that of the famous Knight in his tilt at the windmills. While science in every branch of human endeavor has made prodigious strides in advance, in meteorology there seems to be a waiting period so far as a mastery of the laws of its dynamics are concerned. If we eliminate the personal equation in the forecasting of the weather for a long or a short period, we are not very far advanced beyond the deductions made by Franklin or Jefferson.

The individual forecaster counts for much because the dynamic factors are not nearly understood or logically connected. The long range forecaster cheerfully enters the lists and knowing, as P. T. Barnum put it, that the American people dearly love to be humbugged, proceeds to claim a knowledge occult to the people, and while not claiming direct wireless communication with the planets, still will not deny a hidden and profound knowledge of dynamic meteorology superior to all living or dead authorities.

When requested to give some evidence of this knowledge, the spirit of commercialism which we all emulate in a greater or lesser degree, prevents him from giving the people the benefit, unless they pay his price. There is no secrecy as to the working plans of the forecaster in the several Central observatories, their maps showing lines of equal pressure and temperature and other weather phenomena, are known to all men. Every intelligent student can trace the progress of storms by following closely the daily weather map. It may be possible that a rank outsider of this embryonic science will discover the hidden laws underlying its dynamics and bring order out of this

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chaos of multiplied observations. He will be hailed, whoever he may be, by his fellow men and welcomed as one of the great discoverers of the age and his name and fame ring down the ages. It may be that one of the plodding students now poring over the weather maps at some insignificant observatory may find a clue to this problem of the weather that has puzzled the brightest minds of the century just passed, and occupying the unremitting and tireless attention of some of the brightest living. It is not by claiming knowledge caviare to the public, by iconoclastic attacks on the present methods of forecasting, by claims of verifications not substantiated by verifiable forecasts, that the long ranger can gull all the people even a part of the time. That he has a vogue at the present time, can only be accounted for by that innate love for the mysterious which dominates a large portion of mankind from the time of the Veiled Prophet of Khorassan, to the Mystic Shriners of today.

The facts of meteorology can be known to all men, but the forces back of these facts are the things to be grappled with, and the long ranger who wanders far afield from these facts classes himself at once with charlatans. A working hypothesis sufficiently broad to accommodate the multitudinous facts has as yet not been presented. JOHN J. McLEAN, Observer.

An Editor in Trouble

The editor of the Pender (Nebr.) Republic is in serious trouble. An editorial which appeared in a recent issue of the Republic follows:

"The editor of this paper has been hiding out in the straw piles most of the time during the last seven days on account of that little item in last week's issue in which we said that people dance solely for the hugging there is in it.

"A number of our dancing friends of both sexes took violent exception to that statement, and one ambitious youth even went so far, so we are told, as to threaten to mar the fine classic outlines of our beautiful physiognomy—but we are glad to say that he hasn't done it yet.

"The editor of this paper doesn't lay any claim to infallibility. He has been mistaken in other things and may be mistaken in this, but we hardly see how the Concord

World and the Pender Republic could both be mistaken in the same way on the same subject. The World editor is a ladies' man from the ground up. He has hugged women out of the dance hall and in the dance hall and is in a position to give expert testimony, and in a recent issue of his paper he gave it as his solemn opinion that in the dance hall is the only place on earth where one man can hug another man's wife without getting his back bone kicked up through the top of his hat. If the Republic is wrong about this matter, the Concord World is also off its trolley. "If people do not dance to hug and to be hugged, why don't they go it single file? Surely the floor would be as smooth, the music just as sweet and the exercise and poetry of motion just as exhilarating. Or, why can't the men dance together and kick up their heels and glide around the room in gray and frolicsome abandon?" "Nay, nay, my friends, 'position' has something to do with it.

"It has always seemed to us that 'sitting out a waltz' would be a whole lot more satisfactory than dancing if the system could only be properly introduced. The sitting out process would involve the same position as standing. The only difference is that you would sit instead of dance. The man's right arm would be around the girl's waist, his left hand would hold her right, while her head and left arm could find a convenient resting place on his shoulder.

"It is a blamed outrage to require a man to waltz a mile or two in order to get a chance to hug a pretty girl. A room full of people sitting on sofas and hugging each other to the soothing strains of love ditties played soft and low would be much more to our liking. This would give the old rheumy-ticky brethren another chance to dance. There comes a time in every man's life when he loses all desire to gallop around a dance hall all night, but he has got to be powerful old before he loses his appetite for hugging a pretty girl.

"Those who disagree with us on this subject are invited to contribute articles to this paper setting forth their ideas. In case any are mad at this paper and don't want to favor it to that extent we are sure that Brother Murray will be glad to lend his columns to anyone who wants to roast the editor of

the Republic. "At any rate, for the sake of the insurance company in which we hold a policy, we hope they won't resort to anything desperate."—In World-Herald.

Britt Items.

J. Broad is in town this week "courting."

Mr. Kellogg has purchased two hounds lately.

Messrs. Dunn and Britt shelled corn last week.

Miss Brown was visiting Dry Creek school Tuesday.

Mr. Kellogg went to Rosebud Tuesday with a load of potatoes.

Andrew Miller has located near Britt. He is picking corn for T. P. Spratt.

Messrs. Bishop and Butler were callers at Mr. and Mrs. Bullis' Thursday.

Messrs. Sanner, Bullis and Britt each took a load of hogs to town Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Fowler were visiting their daughter, Mrs. Broad, last week.

Several persons have been delivering cattle to J. E. Pettyerew this week.

A number of Britt people were transacting business in Valentine Wednesday.

There was a light fall of snow over this portion of the country last Saturday night.

Britt is undoubtedly the greatest "dog and gun" city on earth. [Valentine excepted.—Ed.]

Corn husking will soon be a thing of the past. Everyone in this neighborhood will finish by the last of this week.

SLEEPY EYES.

Excursion Rates for the Holidays.

Via the North-western Line. Excursion tickets will be sold at reduced rates to points on the North-western Line and Union Pacific, Colorado & Southern and Deaver & Rio Grande, east of and including Cheyenne, Wyo., Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Colo., December 24, 25, 26, 30, and January 1 and 2, good returning until and including January 4, 1905. Apply to agents Chicago & North-western Ry.

St Louis Service

See that your ticket reads via the Burlington Route from Omaha to St. Louis. The Burlington's Exposition Flyer leaves at 5:25 p. m. arriving at St. Louis 7:10 the next morning.

Burlington trains carry every equipment to make traveling comfortable, and they run over a smooth track all the way.

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