

### AERONAUTICAL METEOROLOGY.

INVESTIGATIONS CARRIED ON IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GOODYEAR TIRE  
AND RUBBER COMPANY, OF LOS ANGELES.

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As it is proposed to use the dirigible balloons manufactured locally for scouting, photography, aerial surveying, passenger and freight carrying, it is highly important that studies be made as to local weather conditions affecting this kind of aerial work.

In response to a request from the Goodyear Company as to a nearby location where flight and suspension might be easily had over both land and water during calm weather, a special report was rendered showing: June and July winds along the coast west of Los Angeles Harbor and at the Harbor itself, with the hourly variation in velocity; photographs of coast points where practise flights might be had with perfect safety, and the time when such flights would be practicable. Contour and weather maps of the coast region were incorporated in this report. "With such a report and profiles it will be possible," said the recipient, "to make exact calculations as to ballast, power, starting and ending of the journey thus, insuring its success at the start without any experimentation whatever except with the mechanical part of the ship."

In further response to a request from the Goodyear Company to present a plan for the proposed trip to Phoenix from Los Angeles, and return by dirigible, this Department of Meteorology and Aeronautics, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, accepted the invitation from the head of the Goodyear Aeronautical Department to accompany the pilot on his first trip of pathfinding, and made the following recommendations to the Company:

1. That the proposed journey should be completed within 30 days in order that the test flight may be made under the most favorable meteorological conditions.
2. From the middle of July until September, inclusive, thunderstorms would be frequent over the desert regions traversed, therefore there would be only three weeks left for the test flight.
3. That the journey had best be made by moonlight in order to escape the very great daytime radiation of heat from the desert.
4. To secure the least grade in crossing, it is proposed that the line of the Southern Pacific R. R. Co. be followed over the San Gorgonio pass, southerly over the Imperial valley, thence eastward over the valley of the Gila river to Phoenix.—*Ford A. Carpenter.*

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### WEATHER INSURANCE.

Insurance against unfavorable weather conditions is a legitimate and scientific form of protection which is bound to increase in popularity as time goes on. This kind of economic safeguard is still in its infancy. Climatological records are now of sufficient length in the United States to serve as an adequate basis for the mathematical computations employed by an insurance actuary.

In this connection, a recent incident is worthy of note. During the summer of 1916, a certain San Francisco organization made arrangements for the outdoor presentation of Verdi's grand opera, "Aida," the same to be given in the baseball park on the evening of September 21, 1916. Grand opera stars of international reputation were engaged for this single performance, and various other considerations made it impossible to postpone it to another evening, if the night selected, proved to be rainy. Reliable weather records, including daily precipitation data, are available in San Francisco for the period extending back to