

WEATHER NEWS FOR AVIATORS

A radio system designed to give information to aviators of weather conditions along their routes of flight, in the air as well as on the ground, has been approved by the Army Air Service and soon will be extended over the entire continent. Actual construction has begun at Mitchell Field, Long Island; Langley Field, Va.; Moundsville, W. Va., and the Wilbur Wright Field at Fairfield, Ohio.

Army aviation officials said today they hoped through operation of the net to prevent in the future disasters as that which occurred last May near Morgantown, Md., and cost the lives of seven persons by an airplane flying into a violent storm of which its occupants had no knowledge.¹ Development of the net, they said, was largely due to lessons learned from that disaster, the worst recorded in the history of military aviation.

Plans for installation of the new safety devices, which will function as a net-work of electrical waves covering the country, provide for the dissemination of weather reports, storm warnings and of all information affecting flying.

The Army Air Service contemplates the extension of the net eventually to every field and station in the country. At the present, actual construction has not been attempted west of Ohio.—*Worcester Evening Gazette*, Nov. 25, 1921.

INSURANCE AGAINST ADVERSE WEATHER

The British custom of taking out weather insurance has acquired a strong foothold in the United States.

Five major league baseball clubs this season have thus safeguarded themselves on all of their Saturday, Sunday and holiday playing dates while many minor league magnates are similarly protecting their exchequers.

More than \$1,500,000 was underwritten in rain insurance for the last Fourth of July, it is estimated. Fair weather was general, and less than \$100,000 was paid policy holders. Labor Day is expected to break the July 4 record.

A British company underwrote a \$750,000 rain insurance policy for Tex Rickard as protection against financial setbacks which the elements might have caused on July 2, the day of the Dempsey-Carpentier bout. The premium of this policy was reported to have been \$75,000.

Colleges also have begun to insure against rainy Saturdays during the football season and state and county fairs are likewise taking up the practice. Underwriters report that horse racing promoters and owners of boats used for holiday excursions are their bigger clients. In the Winter they insure ice skating on rinks on the temperature remaining below freezing.

Summer resort hotels insure themselves against bad weather over week-ends and department stores do the same thing for days on which they have advertised sales expected to attract particularly large numbers of purchasers.

The insurance companies charge premiums ranging from 2½ to 25 per cent of the policy and even higher in rare instances. Rates are based on the average rainfall in any locality over a 10-year period and on the month in which the event insured is to take place.—*Birmingham News*, Aug. 12, 1921.

D. W. Griffith has taken out a \$25,000 policy insuring his next production for a snowstorm before November 20.

It is provided in the policy that it must be "a snowstorm that

¹ See note in July-August BULLETIN.