

The weather is by no means a subject which should be regarded merely as a matter of conversation for the multitudes of people who find it difficult to talk about anything else. The subject is, in reality, one of great national importance; of far more importance than many others which occupy the time and the thoughts of the public; and it is only neglected on account of the obscurity behind which the causes of weather changes have been hitherto concealed, and of the consequent apparent futility of discussing them. If any scientific investigations could bring the subject of weather changes within the region of actual knowledge, so that reasonable forecasts might be made concerning them, it would at once become manifest that scarcely any other subject could vie with them in universality of interest. The power of foreseeing the weather of the next few days would do much, the power of foreseeing the weather of the next season would do almost everything, to take away from agriculture the uncertainty which is now its greatest hindrance; and a bad harvest season would then no longer, as at present, entail upon the nation a loss which must be estimated by millions.—*London Times*.

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