

of this most useful and important science, and it has now become a regularly organized branch of the Public Service at Washington. Much valuable information, however, in connection with meteorological observations was previously collected, tabulated and made available for public use by the Smithsonian Institute and other learned bodies in that country; and it is probable with the efforts now being made in the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada, to perfect a system of meteorological observations in connection with weather telegraphy and storm signals, that other countries which have not hitherto been taking such observations will follow their example in this respect, and establish similar institutions for this important object.

In the United States the weather Signal Office is attached to the War Department, and is presided over by Brigadier-General Myer, who is chief signal officer of the army, and bulletins shewing the state of the atmosphere at certain points, and a forecast of the weather which may be expected are issued three times a day from the chief office at Washington, and telegraphed all over the country for the benefit of commerce, shipping and agriculture. These observations have been gradually extending for some time past, until they have now got about seventy meteorological stations ranging from the Atlantic sea board to the Pacific, and from the Gulf of Mexico to the northern boundaries between the States and Canada.

The system of taking meteorological observations and telegraphing weather signals throughout the United States is now conducted on a much larger scale, and at a greater cost to the public treasury than is probably done in any other country in the world, shewing a desire on the part of their public men to bring this science to the highest possible perfection, with the view of rendering the knowledge thus obtained practically useful to the country. It has been estimated that with the extended range of observing stations they have now in operation and in close connection with the chief office by telegraph three times a day, the cost of telegraphing will not fall much short of \$1,000 per day, and the total cost of service may probably exceed half a million of dollars.

Until recently no organized Governmental system of taking meteorological observations and tabulating them for publication has been in operation in Canada, although there are some very able scientific men in the Dominion who not only have taken a great interest in this subject as amateurs, but have been devoting much time and attention to it, although their labours have been to a certain extent unavailable for the purpose of ascertaining general results, as local observations only become valuable when they are taken at certain times in conjunction with other stations, and subsequently tabulated and compared with similar observations at other stations throughout a large extent of country.

Some time ago Professor Kingston, the Director of the Magnetic Observatory at Toronto, a great enthusiast in the study of meteorology, and a gentleman of high scientific attainments, brought this subject prominently under my notice and suggested the advisability of my taking the necessary steps to obtain from the observatories under this Department and Lighthouse keepers at distant stations, such as Sable Island, Saint Paul's Island, Belle Isle, Bird Rocks and other exposed places, on the seaboard as well as at