

## Do You Know?

Starfish *meal* compares favorably with sardine meal as chicken feed.

*Astronomers* have given names, Greek letters, or numbers to all stars visible to the naked eye.

Instead of laying eggs, the *fly* that causes African sleeping sickness gives birth to one fly.

The successful use of *sulfa drugs* for X-disease on peaches is an example of the new trend toward "artificial immunization" of plants against diseases.

*Synthetic esters* were made and used in Germany during the war for improving the lubricating properties of special oils for use in cold weather.

One American *turkey farm* has modernized its killing process by using electricity; birds are electrocuted with 450 volts in from five to 15 seconds.

In a properly *air conditioned* home, the absence of warping causes the piano to stay tuned longer, and the doors and windows to open and close easier.

*Clothing industries*, this year, expect to produce 30,000,000 suits for men; this is 5,000,000 more than the normal yearly production.

The 200-inch *reflector* being prepared for the Mount Palomar telescope will enable astronomers to penetrate twice as far into space and cover eight times the volume of space now open to them.

Sectionalized plywood *barges* proved satisfactory during the war for transporting petroleum products in rivers and along the coast; the sections, bound together by connector bolts, were lined with a synthetic rubber compound.

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### METEOROLOGY

## Weather Stations Abroad

➤ FAR-FLUNG weather stations outside the continental United States are being maintained by the U. S. Weather Bureau to aid transcontinental and transoceanic flying, and hourly reports of weather conditions are being received from stations of other nations. Additional observatories will be established both in American possessions and on foreign soil in cooperation with the countries concerned as found needed. These latter will be operated by the U. S. Weather Bureau only until local personnel have been trained.

Weather Bureau activities also have increased over prewar days within the United States. The Bureau has taken over weather stations at Army posts, now on a caretaker basis, at home as well as abroad. In fact, the Weather Bureau has authority, by order of the President, to take these stations where the needs of international airlines make such action essential. These home stations, added to prewar observatories, give better coverage than ever before.

The Weather Bureau has stations in operation in Alaska and the Aleutians. The Bureau exchanges reports from a hundred stations daily with Russia. The Soviet Union, the U. S. Bureau states, has been very cooperative in converting her reports for use in our historical maps of the northern hemisphere, which are used in long range forecasting and many research projects.

The proposed establishment of additional joint Canadian-United States meteorological stations in far northern Canada is awaiting a complete survey. The purpose of such stations, many of which would be temporary only, is to secure data for the Canadian-United States Joint Defense Board.

Denmark has agreed to let the United States establish a weather station in the northwestern part of Greenland, it is reported. It will be operated by civilians. Among other places for permanent stations are Guam, Wake, the Philippines and Canton island in the Pacific, and Caribbean areas in the Atlantic.

Alaskan and Aleutian stations are essential now that the Great Circle route from the United States to Japan and China is beginning to be used. The fogs and winds that prevail along the Aleutians could cause great difficulties unless pilots were prewarned. The Alaskan stations, together with others in northern

Canada are essential in studying the possibilities of the Polar route from the Western Hemisphere to parts of Europe and Asia.

Greenland stations are an aid on the present short route to Europe by way of Newfoundland and Iceland; those in the Caribbean, to air transportation to South America; and those on Wake, Guam and the Philippines for travel to southern Asia and Australia via Hawaii.

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### GEOGRAPHY

## Alaska Crossroads For World Flying

➤ ALASKA SEEMS destined to become a crossroads in transoceanic flying; its importance in future aviation is now recognized by an allotment of federal money for airport construction.

The allotment just announced by the Civil Aeronautics Administration is for \$1,740,000 for the present year for Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The amount may seem small, but when added to millions already spent in constructing airports by the Army during the war, it will go far.

Alaska's importance in transoceanic flying is largely geographical. It lies on or close to the Great Circle routes from American airports to Japan, China, Siberia and other parts of eastern Asia. It is also not far from routes from the West Coast by way of the North Pole to much of Europe and Asia. The Great Circle route to Tokyo, by way of the Alaskan Aleutians, is now in use. The Polar route is under study, and some day may play an important role in air transportation.

Added to the favorable geographical position of Alaska, and the Aleutians, the country has another potential asset of great value in long distance flying. It may be able to refuel crossing planes with domestic gasoline. Drills are now penetrating the earth in the Point Barrow general area exploring to find the petroleum that geologists claim is there. The drillings are being made by the U. S. Navy in an area set aside as a Naval petroleum reserve by President Harding more than two decades ago. If pay-oil is found, a pipeline to Fairbanks and the south coast will be laid.

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