

Report on the Administration of the Meteorological Department of the Government of India in 1930-31.

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CHIEF FEATURES OF THE YEAR.

For some years past the department has been expanding concurrently with the opening of Indian air-routes. In the year under review the schemes connected with aviation reached a stage of completion, at which it was thought they would remain for some time without any further considerable expansion and so enable the department to consolidate its organisation and to settle down to a programme of practical and scientific work, preparatory to further development. Simultaneously however the period of financial stringency that has overtaken India began to be noticeable. Other schemes, unconnected with aviation, but aiming to introduce uniformity and increased efficiency into the departmental organisation had to be shelved, such, for instance, as the projects to raise the remaining observatories in south India to the same status as those throughout northern India and Burma and to give the Headquarters Office at Poona the benefit of the recent developments by arranging for the preparation of an evening weather chart there. Considering that most other countries prepared weather charts three times daily, even before the 1914-18 War, the proposal to arrange for a second daily weather chart at Poona could not be considered extravagant. It is now feared that the stage reached towards the end of the year under review may prove to be not one of merely temporarily arrested development but a climax, beyond which the next stages may perhaps be the retracing of steps recently taken.

2. While the immediate cause of the recent developments was the need to meet the requirements of aviators on the Karachi-Rangoon air-route, who want detailed and up-to-date weather information about upper winds, clouds, visibility, thunderstorms, duststorms, etc., it is not possible to draw any exact line beyond which it may be said that the work done is done solely on behalf of civil aviation and not for other purposes. The general basis of the meteorological organisation, namely, the receipt of weather telegrams at a few forecasting centres from a network of observatories, has been strengthened; and more information is