VISIBILITY Report



As a result of the Hongkong Conference of Directors of Far Eastern Services in 1930, it was decided that the observers of the Philippines should report visibility twice every day in their telegraphic message. The present note deals with the preliminary results brought about by one year of observations. To study the effect of various conditions on visibility, stations have been selected that are located on the eastern or western coast of the archipelago, near the coast or farther inland. On account of the hilly features of the country and the multiplicity of inlands, it is not difficult to sight from each station suitable objects that fit very well in the international scale of visibility. The observations of visibility taken at 6 a.m. and 2 p.m. can be taken to represent fairly well the visibility of the early mornings and of midday. The frequency of a given visibility was counted for every station and every day of the year.

The comparative study of all the observations point to the following conclusions: First, the visibility in the afternoon is higher, at least by two numbers of the scale, than the visibility of the early morning. Low illumination, lack of contrast, stratification of the air and suspension of the particles of dust and higroscopic particles in the lower layers of the atmosphere may be mentioned as causes of the relatively poor visibility of the early morning. Striking contrast between the illuminated sky and the various objects of comparison, and the strong convection of the day, which disperses and dilutes the atmospheric pollution, are the main reasons for the improved visibilities of midday. The visibility most fre-