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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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of Clark University.

THE ICE PATROL

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1925 Apr. 14-  
1925 Dec. 31

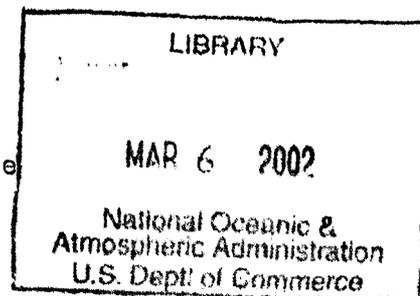
Every spring North Atlantic steamship traffic is menaced by icebergs. Most bergs "represent the wastage from the Greenland ice cap", indeed one glacier in west Greenland is said to "calve" one iceberg per day. Of all the icebergs set afloat, many remain in their home latitudes, others drift about and are eventually carried far south by the Labrador current. Some of these run aground on the Labrador coast or on the Grand Banks and some turn westward along the southern coast of Newfoundland. But a few continue their travels eastward and southward till they reach the steamship lanes which pass just south of the Banks. In this region the meeting of the Labrador current and Gulf Stream causes complex eddies and currents which carry the bergs back and forth - there the Titanic disaster occurred on April 14, 1912, when the ship collided with a great iceberg. This is the point of greatest menace as the bergs do not last long, once they enter the warm Gulf Stream.

The Titanic disaster, 13 years ago today, led to the establishment of the International Ice Patrol. Every year from March to June or July cutters hunt icebergs and study their motions in the region north of the steamer tracks. Special warnings of menacing bergs are radioed and several regular broadcasts are sent out twice daily. This work has prevented any serious iceberg catastrophe since the Titanic.

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(Tomorrow: Rainy Vs Dry Lows)

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