

A Science Service Feature

Intended for use
Feb. 24, 1926, but
released on receipt.

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed Feb. 17, 1926

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ICE-STORM INCONVENIENCE

Though everyone enjoys the beauty of the glittering ice-storm, such a coat of glaze is a rather costly form of winter display. On any railroad, poles and wires across the track cause delays or interruption of service, while electrified lines find glaze particularly hard to cope with. Ice on overhead wires or on the top of the third rail spoils the contact. The New York Central Railroad now uses the under contact rail, and the Long Island has found spraying with calcium chloride useful in melting glaze.

City trolley service is similarly subject to crippling unless the wires are underground. Along city and suburban streets branches and trees falling across the track furnish additional obstacles. While the wires stay up, trolley wheels equipped with ice raking claws have been found helpful. Temporary heating of wires by putting on a heavier current has been used to free some lines.

Perhaps lighting and telephone companies are the worst hit by ice storms. During the severe storm of November, 1921, at Worcester, trolley service was handicapped for several days, but it was weeks before all the fallen electric light wires could be replaced, and many people were without their telephone service for a month.

Ice works havoc with large shade trees and orchards, though the younger and more supple trees may escape serious injury. But in spite of all the damage done, it is one of the rare and wonderful sights of winter to see every twig on bushes and trees sparkling in the sunlight.

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