

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ICE-BOUND BUFFALO

An ice field locally 15 to 18 feet thick and stretching 40 miles out into Lake Erie from Buffalo formed an impenetrable barrier even to the concerted attack of 36 steel freighters as late as May 8 this year. Not since 1908, when navigation out of Buffalo was opened on April 26, has there been even an approach to the extraordinary situation of this spring.

Buffalo and other leeward shore places on the Great Lakes are notably cold in spring, but the conditions this year, in their marked contrast with so much warmer weather on opposite shores have been most extraordinary. The shape of the eastern end of Lake Erie and the long sweep of the westerly winds which jam the ice into Buffalo's pocket are responsible for her especial chilliness.

However, some warmth comes to Buffalo even in such a spring as this one. While the ships were stuck in the ice the air temperature rose to 74 under clear skies and a light northeast wind, off the land. But it soon fell back to 34. We do not always relish northeast winds in spring, but there are times when some people do. Until that ice is all gone the citizens of Buffalo would welcome a strong northeaster every other day. The grip of such a wind on the ice moves it out into the lake. When you are trying to keep warm and imagine that spring has come, an icefield near by is not likely to add to your comfort or bear the fragrance of flowers.

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