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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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LESS ICE FARTHER NORTH

An interesting climatic paradox was brought to general attention during the World War when the Allies were keenly interested in keeping communications open with Russia by way of the Arctic Ocean. The chief Arctic port of European Russia is Archangel on an arm of the White Sea. This port is ice-bound for 190 days of the year on an average. A much more favorable port with respect to ice was found 300 miles farther north, on the Murman Coast, where the village of Alexandrovsk acquired sudden importance as a gateway to Russia.

The Murman Coast, extending from Væranger Fjord to the White Sea, is warmed by the Atlantic Drift - a prolongation of the Gulf Stream. In some years there is no fixed ice on this coast, and only in the coldest years has it been ice-bound as long as five months. The coast east of the White Sea, though farther south, has ice for eight months in an average year.

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