

Released on receipt
but intended for use
November 1, 1928

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed October 25, 1928

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

THE COST OF ICE AND SNOW

Prof. H. T. Barnes, F.R.S., of McGill University, in several recent publications has emphasized the enormous tax imposed on humanity every winter by ice and snow and has indicated various ways in which this burden can be lightened. One expensive item is the closing of waterways and harbors to navigation by ice. Thus every year, besides the general suspension of traffic for some months on the Great Lakes, several vessels are caught by a sudden freezing of the waters. Even if they are able to force a way through the ice, they are liable to receive much damage in doing so.

In the port of Montreal, says Prof. Barnes, closed five months of the year by ice, the weekly loss on this account runs to \$15,000,000. "In the operation of automobiles no estimate of the millions lost has been made. All our taxi companies report thousands of dollars spent in damage done every winter. In the operation of railroads the clearing of snow from the tracks and the thawing of switches represents much money. In delays to traffic, no estimate has ever been made. Every big snowstorm costs the City of New York a million dollars or more for snow removal. The great water-power plants situated on northern rivers are seriously affected by ice, and many of them reduced to half their summer capacity."

Methods of fighting ice and snow are numerous. Prof. Barnes has been especially identified in recent years with the use of thermit for melting ice jams and other ice accumulations.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE,
21st and B Sts.,
Washington, D.C.