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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ANTARCTIC ICEBERGS

The icebergs of the Antarctic, among which Commander Byrd recently pushed his way to his landing place in the Bay of Whales, differ strikingly in appearance from the bergs encountered in northern latitudes. They are usually of tabular form, with flat tops and vertical sides, and they are in many cases far larger than icebergs of Arctic origin. They may be met with anywhere poleward of the parallel 30 degrees South. As many as 4,500 have been counted from a steamer during a run of 2,000 miles. Estimated heights of 800 to 1,000 feet are not uncommon and one 1,700 feet high has been reported. There are well authenticated cases of bergs 40 to 50 miles long, and one encountered by the bark "Aethelbert" in 1893 is said to have been 82 miles long.

The larger bergs of southern seas were called "ice islands" by the early voyagers and explorers, and the name is still sometimes applied to them. These great masses of ice occasionally contain large bays, which ships sometimes enter, supposing there is an open passage before them, and sailing vessels have been lost in this way.

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