

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
July 3, 1931

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed June 26, 1931

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

ICEBERG DANGERS

Icebergs have not ceased to be a serious hazard to navigation in the North Atlantic Ocean, despite the excellent work of the International Ice Patrol, conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard. This year bergs have been remarkably scarce, but when they are normally prevalent the patrol cannot afford complete protection from them; one reason being that thick fogs often prevent the Coast Guard cutters from finding them and keeping them under observation.

Collisions with icebergs have occurred in recent years. The S.S. "Montrose" ran foul of one in 1928 and the S.S. "Vimeita" in 1929. The results were not serious, but they might have been. Moreover, says the Coast Guard, the infrequency of accidents since the patrol began tends to make mariners reckless. Passenger steamers often pass through the danger zone at high speed. In the spring of 1929 there were a hundred cases in which liners between the United States and Europe crossed the tail of the Banks at speeds of 20 knots or more and more than 20 miles north of the prescribed routes. "Such an act," says a Coast Guard bulletin, "is a piece of pure folly; it must result sooner or later in disaster." The vessels plying between Europe and Canada are much wiser. They reduce speed to 3 knots in foggy weather when crossing the Grand Banks.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

-----  
SCIENCE SERVICE  
21st and Constitution Ave.  
Washington, D.C.