

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
April 3, 1933

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed March 27, 1933

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

THE DEBACLE

During the winter, says a note in the English journal Nature, the rivers of Canada, Russia and Siberia are firmly frozen, and the break-up of the ice in spring is an imposing phenomenon, which is termed the "débacle." In southern Canada and southern Russia it begins about the middle of March, but is progressively later in higher latitudes, not coming until May or even, in the extreme north of Siberia, not until June. It lasts from a fortnight to six weeks, during which time the drifting ice masses often form jams, blocking the rivers and causing floods. In the northward flowing rivers of Siberia, in which the upper courses melt first and pour their waters over the still frozen lower reaches, this process is accentuated, and the whole country becomes impassable; Irkutsk, for example, is isolated for a month in May.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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