

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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"TARYN"

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

The Russian geologist Sergei Obruchev, known to weathermen as the discoverer of a new "cold pole" in Siberia, describes in a recent article certain ice formations encountered in that part of the world. They bear the Yakut name of "taryn." He writes:

"Taryn are a peculiar feature of north Siberia. They are formed in winter, when the rivers are frozen through to the bottom and water which cannot make its way under the ice issues through the gravel of the river-banks to the surface of the ice, where it spreads out in a thin layer and freezes. Considerable areas, many tens of square kilometers, are thus frozen over and the valley covered by an ice layer three to six meters thick. This ice does not melt during the summer.

"In summer taryn present excellent ways for caravans, since they are easier to travel upon than gravel, but in winter the taryn are great obstacles; they are either congealed and consequently very slippery, or else covered with water into which the deer fear to enter. Not infrequently it happens that several layers of taryn are not wholly frozen up; sledges sink into it and the deer perish."

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21st and Constitution Ave.
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