
A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
March 13, 1934

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed March 6, 1934

FIGHTING ICE STORMS

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

There are several ways of mitigating the heavy expense that ice storms impose every winter upon certain industries. The electric railways use various cutting and scraping devices attached to the cars for removing the icy coating from overhead trolley wires and third rails. A less common practice is to melt the ice from third rails by the application of calcium chloride fed from a tank car. Power lines are freed of ice by sending a "heating current" through them. It is only in recent years, however, that the engineering industries have taken up in earnest the problem of combating this perennial evil.

One enterprise in this connection undertaken a few years ago in the United States by the National Electric Light Association in cooperation with the Weather Bureau is that of gathering statistics of the frequency and amount of the ice deposits in different parts of the country. A frame set up outdoors at each of several Weather Bureau stations carries a series of wires of different diameters, and at the end of a storm the local observer measures the thickness of ice deposited on each wire.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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