

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
March 22, 1934

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed March 15, 1934

ICE-BREAKERS

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

As a sequel to the recent spell of real winter in their vicinity, the shipping interests at New York are urging a plan to provide a fleet of eight ice-breakers to keep the channels about that city open in severe weather. Hitherto this task has been left to the U.S. Coast Guard, which lacks adequate equipment for the purpose. When not needed at New York, such vessels would often be able to do good work farther up the Hudson. In its issue of March 10, Shipping Register and World Ports comments favorably on this project and points to the valuable services performed by ice-breakers on the St. Lawrence, where they are said to add at least thirty days a year to the season of navigation at Montreal.

"These powerful boats," we are told, "are also used to prevent ice jams, which, if not broken up, would result in forming dams and flooding much territory adjacent to the St. Lawrence River. For some weeks now ice-breakers have been working in the St. Lawrence and even though the ice is the thickest it has been in many years these powerful boats have now worked as far up the river as Sorel, keeping the channel open and smashing their way each day nearer to their ultimate goal, which is Montreal. Compared with the St. Lawrence, New York should be much easier to control in respect to ice. From an actual knowledge of the accomplishments of these ice-breakers, New York Harbor most assuredly should be equipped with such a fleet. They form a great safeguard to shipping and in addition to being useful in breaking up solid ice, can in the worst of weather conditions smash their way through the heavy floes and save many thousands of dollars' damage to ocean liners, harbor piers and other equipment, besides keeping all channels open the year round for the free flow of commerce."

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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