

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
June 10, 1935

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed June 3, 1935

AN ICEBERG PROBLEM

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

Now that icebergs are in season along the North Atlantic steamship lanes it is timely to ask the question? "What fraction of an iceberg's mass is above the surface of the sea?" Definite answers to this question will be found in many standard books --- but they don't agree. Perhaps the commonest is the one given in the last edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, where we are told that one-ninth of the mass is above water. Some books say as little as one-tenth, and various other figures are given.

Samples of ice collected from icebergs by the International Ice Patrol were found to have a specific gravity that would cause them to float in sea water about seven-eighths submerged. However, Professor Barnes, the well-known Canadian authority on ice, says that on account of the large amount of air imprisoned in them many bergs float with fully one-third of their mass above water. And now Alf Maurstad, in his "Atlas of Sea Ice," just published in Norway, tells us that the mass of ice above water ranges from one-fourth to one-sixth, with one-fifth as the average.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE
2101 Constitution Ave.
Washington, D.C.