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By Major A.H. Thiessen
Science Service Meteorologist

Winter's harvest! Using ice for cool drinks and for keeping food is as old as Homer. For these purposes the early settlers of this country, especially in the northern states and Canada, had not only sufficient ice for their use but also a great surplus. So the exporting of ice was begun in 1805 by a Bostonian, the first shipment going to Martinique. In 1832 4,352 tons of ice were exported from Boston; the figure rose to 156,540 tons in 1854. Good markets were found in the southern states as well as in the West and East Indies. Shipments were also made from New York. In those early days ice sold for three dollars a ton wholesale. Many farmers harvested ice for their own use.
