

BRITISH GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The "Association for the Study of Snow and Ice", founded in 1936, has changed its title and is now known as the "British Glaciological Society". The President of the Society is Mr Gerald Seligman, and the Vice-President is Mr J. M. Wordie. The Society is open to all who have scientific, practical or general interest in any aspect of snow and ice study. Membership is by nomination. Meetings for the purpose of reading and discussing papers are held at about three-monthly intervals, in London, Cambridge or elsewhere. By permission of the President and Council, the temporary headquarters are at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London, S.W. 7.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF SNOW AND GLACIERS

[For a previous note on this subject see *The Polar Record*, No. 22, July 1941, pp. 451-53.]

The following subjects were selected at Washington in 1939 for papers to be read at Oslo in 1947 before the International Commission of Snow and Glaciers, one of the Commissions of the International Association of Hydrology. The Association is one of the component bodies of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, which is sponsoring the meeting at Oslo:

- (1) The origin, drift and ablation of icebergs as aids in forecasting their seasonal appearance.
- (2) The physical changes in the snow conducive to run-off and particularly to flooding.
- (3) The study of the crystal structure of a glacier and its influence upon glacier movement.

Mr G. Seligman, who has been appointed Chairman of the British Group of the Commission of Snow and Glaciers, will be glad to hear from anyone who wishes to make a contribution to these subjects by writing a paper or by taking part in the discussions. He will be pleased to answer any inquiries addressed to him c/o Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London, S W. 7.

OBRUCHEV INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF PERMANENTLY FROZEN SOILS

[Summarised from an article by A. I. Dementiev and V. F. Tumel, "Civil Engineering in Frozen Soil, U.S.S.R.", *Canadian Geographical Journal*, Vol. 32, No. 1, 1946, pp. 32-33.]

Approximately 47 % of the total area of the U.S.S.R. lies within a region where the soil is permanently frozen and every year industrial organisations are moving into this region. The civil engineering problems peculiar to frozen soil are therefore of importance to the economic development of the country, and many of these are being tackled by the Obruchev Institute for the Study of

Permanently Frozen Soil (Institut Merzlotovedeniya). The Institute's workers have achieved success in keeping open the railroads of the Norilsk industrial region, which is subject to a lengthy period of strong winds and drifting snow. Attention has also been given to the use of snow as a building material—and this has been applied to the construction of snowhouses for the Red Army and also to the development of ice warehouses as a cheap and effective form of cold storage. Methods have been evolved to avoid the freezing of soil which has so far made it difficult to reach valuable mineral deposits in mine workings. The Institute has also given advice for the provision of water supplies for the cities of Yakutsk and Irkutsk by constructing artesian wells to tap the water below the frozen strata.

Workers from the Institute have also been sent to the Transbaikal and Norilsk regions to advise on the intricate building problems which arise in areas of frozen soil. In certain cases buildings are designed to prevent the subsoil from thawing. In others the subsoil is thawed out electrically and prevented from re-freezing.

RESUMPTION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL AND ICE OBSERVATION SERVICE, 1946

[Based on notes in the *Hydrographic Bulletin* (Washington), March–June 1946, and the *Christian Science Monitor*, 22 March 1946.]

By Presidential Order, the International Ice Patrol and Ice Observation Service will be resumed during the ice season of 1946. The patrol will be conducted by the United States Coast Guard. The force assigned will carry out the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, London, 1929, relating to ice observation, ice patrol, and derelict destruction.

The object of the Ice Patrol Service is to locate, by scouting and radio information, the icebergs and ice fields nearest to and menacing the North Atlantic shipping routes. The Patrol vessels will determine the south-eastern, southern, and south-western limits of the iceberg area in the vicinity of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland and keep in touch with it as it moves southward in order that radio broadcasts may be transmitted daily giving locations of ice, particularly in the immediate vicinity of the North Atlantic routes

Throughout the ice season, Radio Washington will broadcast daily ice-information bulletins. Summaries of this information will be repeated locally from Boston, New York, and Norfolk. Radio Argentia, Newfoundland, will broadcast two daily Ice Bulletins for the benefit of shipping. Patrol vessels will maintain a continuous listening watch for distress signals. A continuous watch will also be maintained for general communications, such as ice and water-temperature reports and requests for additional information about Ice Broadcasts which may have been missed.

The United States Coast Guard cutters engaged on Ice Patrol duty hope to receive information by radio from steamships concerning icebergs and sea-