

reduce the autumn flow to one-half the expected amount. Heavy rains during the summer can materially improve the situation.—*From Report of J. E. Church, in charge of Nevada Co-operative Snow Surveys, April 1, 1926.*

DOUBLING OF VISIBILITY OF LIGHTS BY REFRACTION

Second Officer S. G. Weir of the British steamer *Tideway*, Capt. J. A. Agnew, reports on March 24, 1926, that the ship's position was fixed by cross bearings in lat. 47° 54' S., lon. 64° 57' W., when Cape Blanco and Isla Penguin Lights, Argentina, were 53 and 31 miles distant, respectively. The flashes of each light were clear and distinct, without blur or distortion. The height of the observer's eye was 45 feet. The normal visibility for these lights, with this height of eye, is 24.3 and 23.5 miles, respectively.

Cape Blanco Light remained in sight for a distance of 58 miles.

There was a slight cloud to the westward, but the sky was otherwise clear; wind west, force 2; temperature, 65° F.—*Hydrographic Bulletin, May 19, 1926.*

ICE-BOUND BUFFALO

An ice field locally 15 to 18 feet thick and stretching 40 miles out into Lake Erie from Buffalo formed an impenetrable barrier even to the concerted attack of 36 steel freighters as late as May 8 this year. Not since 1908, when navigation out of Buffalo was opened on April 26, has there been even an approach to the extraordinary situation of this spring.

Buffalo and other leeward shore places on the Great Lakes are notably cold in spring, but the conditions this year, in their marked contrast with so much warmer weather on opposite shores have been most extraordinary. The shape of the eastern end of Lake Erie and the long sweep of the westerly winds which jam the ice into Buffalo's pocket are responsible for her especial chilliness.

However, some warmth comes to Buffalo even in such a spring as this one. While the ships were stuck in the ice the air temperature rose to 74 under clear skies and a light northeast wind, off the land. But it soon fell back to 34. We do not always relish northeast winds in spring, but there are times when some people do. Until that ice is all gone the citizens of Buffalo would welcome a strong northeaster every other day. The grip of such a wind on the ice moves it out into the lake. When you are trying to keep warm and imagine that spring has come, an icefield nearby is not likely to add to your comfort or bear the fragrance of flowers. *C. F. Brooks* in "Why the Weather," (Science Service).

OIL DISASTERS BY LIGHTNING

The great oil fires near San Luis Obispo and Brea early in April, and at Bakersfield, California, late in the month were set by lightning. At Bakersfield there was such a downpour of rain that the protecting embankments about the oil tanks were gullied through and the whole dis-