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NEWS FROM AMERICA.

Trawlers of the Boston fishing fleet are immobilised by the deep freeze which has hit America's North-East Coast. Temperatures way below zero have crippled the New England fisheries - and crews spend their time sledge-hammering tons of ice from the rigging, while they keep on hoping for a break in the weather.

Not only the coast is suffering from the grip of winter. Four hundred miles inland, Niagara wears a white dress quite unlike her usual style.

So far, the winter has produced record-breaking low temperatures in every state of the North-Eastern seaboard. But even if the cold's enough to take your breath away, its effects are breathtakingly beautiful.

Chicago police have opened an all-out drive on those "hit-the-jackpot" slot machines. Armed guards stand by as the first lead of the one-armed bandits are brought into police headquarters - most of them from private clubs.

Every year these machines net hundreds of thousands of dollars for the racketeers, according to the county sheriff who organised the drive. He believes his big round-up will cut down that total by a large slice. But if the sheriff can take the slot-machines away from the players, it's quite another problem to keep the players away from the slot-machines!

In freezing weather, fire rages through the First Methodist Church in Syracuse, New York State - the latest, and one of the worst, in the epidemic of church fires that has been puzzling experts in the fire and police departments of the Eastern States. Is it arson, the work of some fanatic? Whatever the answer, the fires go on - and this particular one completely wrecks the building, at an estimated cost of seven hundred thousand dollars.

From the U.S.A., a trail of disaster crosses the Canadian border to Montreal, where the Church of St. Elizabeth of Portugal goes up in flames. Here, too, zero temperatures add to the ordeal of the fire-fighters and biting winds whip the blaze on its devouring path.

But the fire triumphs as the steeple of the doomed church crashes to earth.

Here's a bit of news from America that's come to England under its own power - one of the round-the-world team of B-52 Stratocruisers. At Brize Norton, Bomber Command chief Sir Harry Broadhurst - still recuperating from his October Vulcan crash - inspects the huge jet aircraft whose four sisters have circled the globe non-stop in 45 hours 19 minutes, slaking the existing record by more than half.