

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEATHER BUREAU

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In Cooperation with Maryland State Weather Service

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE SECTION

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GENERAL SUMMARY

January was mild, with precipitation well below normal. As a winter month it was remarkable for its fine, open weather. The number of clear days and the amount of sunshine, 20 per cent above normal, were the greatest of record for January, while the relative humidity, 10 per cent below normal, was the least of record. Nearly all of the precipitation fell during the second half of the month. Snowfall was unusually light in western Maryland, but was heavy over the eastern portion of the section on the 28th. A westerly gale on the 25th caused some damage locally.

Temperature periods were well marked. There were three cold waves, 1st-5th, 20th-22d, and 27th-31st. A prolonged warm spell that averaged 13° daily above normal prevailed from the 6th to the 19th, and the period 23d-26th was mild.

A marked temperature feature was the occurrence of very low temperatures on the 30th in central Baltimore, western Montgomery, and northern Prince Georges Counties, and in the central portion of the Eastern Shore, with lowest readings 11° below zero at Bridgeville and Woodstock. These were the lowest temperatures recorded in the localities mentioned during recent years.

Monthly precipitation averaged three-fourths of normal. Monthly amounts were between 0.7 inch and 2 inches in Allegany and Washington Counties and between 1.4 and 2 inches over the southern third of the section; elsewhere they were between 2 and 3 inches, except slightly above 3 inches over the central portion of the Eastern Shore, and increased from 3 inches at the south to 4.6 inches at the north in Baltimore County.

The area of least monthly snowfall, 0.2 inch, embraced Allegany and extreme western Washington Counties. Monthly amounts increased westward to 7 inches at Oakland and eastward to 6 inches in the Blue Ridge Mountain region. Over the eastern portion of the section monthly amounts increased from 3 inches at the extreme south to 30 inches in extreme northern Baltimore County.

The snowstorm of the 28th covered the entire section, but the falls were unevenly distributed. The least fall, 0.2 inch, occurred in Allegany and extreme western Washington Counties. There was an increase westward to 2 inches in western Garrett County and a marked increase eastward. Over the eastern half of the section the falls increased from 2 inches at the extreme south to between 10 and 18 inches in the north, except in Baltimore County, where they ranged from 14 inches to 30 inches, the latter at the north. Strong northwest winds in the afternoon and at night caused the light, dry snow to drift badly, blocking all roads within the area of heavy snowfall, but main highways were opened on the 29th and 30th by the State Roads Commission.

The westerly gale of the 25th demolished two oyster houses, an oil warehouse, a frame dwelling, and a number of small buildings at Crisfield; when the frame dwelling collapsed the wife of the household was injured. At Baltimore two women were blown down and badly injured; a man was injured by flying glass; a house was unrooted; several chimneys were blown down; and a number of plate-glass windows were blown in. On the Eastern Shore and in southern Maryland a number of trees were uprooted; a number of telephone poles and some fences were blown down; barns were moved; and small outbuildings were damaged or wrecked.

The cold wave at the beginning of the month caused wheat, rye, and

grass to turn brown over the entire section. They were still brown when covered by snow on the 28th. The month was favorable for outdoor work. Tobacco stripping, woodcutting, pruning, fencing, hauling and spreading manure, and preparing ground for tobacco beds were in progress. Butchering was finished. An excellent ice crop was secured.

Ice in upper Chesapeake Bay and in the tributaries interfered with movements of steam and sailing vessels from the 3d to the 10th and on the 31st.—J. B., jr.

PRESSURE

The monthly mean sea-level pressure at Washington and Baltimore was 30.07; at Aberdeen, 30.06 inches. The highest at Washington, was 30.58; at Baltimore, 30.60—both on the 4th; at Aberdeen, 30.60 inches on the 16th. The lowest at Washington was 29.16; at Baltimore, 29.09; at Aberdeen, 29.08 inches—all on the 24th.

TEMPERATURE

The monthly mean for the section, 34.3°, is 1.7° above normal. The highest monthly mean was 38.4° at Crisfield; the lowest, 26.8°, at Grantsville. The highest temperature, 72°, occurred at Newburg and Public Landing on the 15th; the lowest, 11° below zero, at Bridgeville and Woodstock on the 30th. The greatest local monthly range was 81° at Bridgeville; the least, 54°, at Crisfield and Wilmington. The greatest daily range was 47° at Frostburg and Hancock on the 1st.

PRECIPITATION

The monthly average for the section, 2.52 inches, is 0.85 inch below normal. The greatest monthly amount was 4.65 inches at Maryland Line; the least, 0.71 inch, at Hancock. The greatest 24-hour amount was 3.00 inches at Maryland Line on the 28th. The monthly average snowfall for the section, 9.7 inches, is 2.2 inches above normal. The greatest monthly snowfall was 30 inches at Maryland Line; the least, 0.2 inch, at Cumberland, Hancock, Picardy, and Western Port. The number of days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more, 7, is 3 below normal.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

The average percentages were: Washington, D. C., 8 a. m., 66; 12 noon, 47; 8 p. m., 52. Baltimore, Md., 8 a. m., 66; 12 noon, 51; 8 p. m., 56. Aberdeen, Md., 8 a. m., 71; 4 p. m., 52. Philadelphia, Pa., 8 a. m., 70; 12 noon, 63; 8 p. m., 69.

WIND

(By 3-cup anemometer, except 4-cup at Aberdeen)

The prevailing direction for the section was northwest. The total movement at Washington was 5,152; at Baltimore, 8,018; at Aberdeen, 6,615 miles. The maximum velocity at Washington was 36 miles from the northwest; at Baltimore, 47 miles from the southwest; at Aberdeen, 45 miles from the west—all on the 25th.

SUNSHINE AND CLOUDINESS

At Washington 65 per cent of the possible sunshine was recorded; at Baltimore, 68 per cent; at Aberdeen 62 per cent. For the whole section the average number of clear days was 17; partly cloudy, 5; cloudy, 9.

MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA (WITH DATES)

Corona, lunar.—Princess Anne, 9.*Fogs, dense.*—Eastern half of section, 9; District of Columbia, southern Maryland, and southern Eastern Shore, 10; Chesapeake Bay region, 19.*Frogs.*—Princess Anne, heard on 15.*Hail, light.*—Ferry Landing, Princess Anne, and Stevensville, night 24.

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