STORM RAKES COAST WITH RAIN AND SNOW

50-Mile Gale Howls Over City as Small Shipping Takes Cover in Bays.

BLIZZARD FOLLOWS FLOOD

Freak Weather Changes Reported on Long Island—Droughts End In Heavy Downpour.

A bitter northeast storm raked the Eastern seaboard States yesterday, bringing New York a howling fifty-mile-an-hour wind and intermittent rain and snow and offering a severe menace to coastwise shipping. The bad weather was general from Northern New England down to Dixie and as far inland as Cleveland and Pittsburgh, with heavy snowfalls reported in communities in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Partly cloudy weather today and not much change in temperature, with fresh to strong northwest and north winds, was forecast last night by the Weather Bureau. The prediction was for increasing cloudiness probably followed by rain or snow tomorrow.

Snow and driving rains pelted New York in the forenoon and during part of the afternoon, but the snowflakes melted as soon as they struck the sodden streets. Officials of the Weather Bureau estimated that the snowfall measured about half an inch and the rain a little more than that.

Wind Blows 50 Miles an Hour.

High winds, reaching their maximum velocity of fifty miles an hour at 1:30 P. M., blew over the city during the storm. The warmest temperature recorded here during the day was 37 degrees at 1 A. M., and the lowest temperature was 31, one degree below freezing, at 12:30 P. M. The day's average temperature was 34, one degree above the normal average of 33 for the date.

In Suffolk County on Long Island rain fell in torrents in the morning, flooding cellars, blocking highways with sand and hampering traffic. The rain changed to snow shortly before noon and for four hours the district was visited by one of the heaviest snowstorms in years. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the snow gave way to rain once more.

Snow fell also in Northern and Central New Jersey as well as in Southern New York. The New Jersey coast was visited by icy rains blown in on a 38-mile northeast wind. Temperatures dropped in all sections of the State.

Although heavy rains drenched Atlantic City, flooding its outlying meadows, Coast Guard officials there reported no damage had been done.

Westchester County lay under a thick coating of slush last night. Some of the communities in the county put their snow plows into action yesterday afternoon to clear the streets.

Caretakers of New York's water supply system in Westchester said the snow and rain falls had been a boon to the supply. The watersheds around the Cornell dam in Croton were covered with a snow blanket about four or five inches deep.

Snow Closes Halifax Harbor.

The White Star liner Cedric, en route to New York, and other vessels were unable to enter the Halifax, N. S., harbor last night because of a raging snowstorm, according to radio messages received here. The Cedric arrived outside the Halifax harbor at 4 P. M., and it was believed probable that she would not enter Halifax until this morning. The Cedric should reach New York late tomorrow or early Tuesday.

An Associated Press dispatch from Boston said a northeasterly gale, beginning with moderate force in the early morning, raged at 60 miles an hour along the New England coast during the afternoon, offering a severe menace to coastwise shipping. The wind was accompanied by alternate snow flurries and driving rain, reducing visibility and making land travel hazardous.

Anticipating the blow, most of the Boston-bound vessels arrived safely in the harbor before the storm had reached its maximum force. The Eastern Steamship Company's passenger steamer Robert E. Lee, from New York to Boston, was not so fortunate, however, arriving two hours late.

Boston Coast Guard headquarters warned its patrol ships to exercise extraordinary vigilance to protect life on the seas. The Tampa, one of its own cutters, experienced difficulty in the morning when engine trouble developed off Cape Cod. The trouble was repaired temporarily, however, and the Tampa headed back toward port. Meanwhile, the Mojave, another cutter, was ordered to prepare to relieve the Tampa on patrol duty.

An extraordinarily high tide was expected and preparations were made to avert damage. A powerful surf piled up on the Winthrop shore and threatened to increase with the rising tide. Longshore work on several piers was interrupted because of the downpour.

A snowstorm of blizzard intensity raged around Worcester, Mass., and the Street Cleaning Department of that city put 500 men and twenty snow plows to work keeping the streets cleared.

Light Keeper Braves Storm.

At the height of the storm in Boston, Light Keeper Mel King, left alone in charge of the Deer Island Light in the Boston Harbor, won a gallant fight against the elements to preserve the traditions in a service whose creed is "The light shall not fail."

With the approach of high tide at 4:23 P. M. combers forty feet high foamed over the top of the lighthouse, perched on the end of a breakwater a half mile off shore from Point Shirley. After telephoning the mainland that he was "in for a washing," King battened down everything in the lighthouse, swung a lifeboat into position for immediate launching in case of necessity and prepared to stand by his light to the last minute, while every moment the heavy seas threatened to batter their way into the tower.

Keeping an axe near by with which to chop his way out to the lifeboat should the heavy seas smash their way into the tower, King rode out the storm, keeping his light burning steadily while the huge waves rocked the structure. The battenings held, and last night, with the worst of the storm over, King faced nothing worse than another twelve or fourteen hours without sleep, pending the return of his assistant from Christmas shore leave.

Rain and snow fell over most of Maryland for the second successive day, relieving a record drought and raising the level of depleted reservoirs and other sources of water supply.

An inch and a half of rain and snow had raised the level at Lochraven, the principal reservoir for Baltimore, by one foot early yesterday, according to The Associated Press. At Frederick records were broken by a rainfall of 2.48 inches. A study of the Baltimore water supply, in progress for several weeks as the level of Lochraven declined, continued, and announcement was made that the water committee of the Public Improvement Commission would recommend a loan of $33,000,000 for an additional supply.

A snowfall of more than five inches visited parts of Pennsylvania but did not interfere with railroad, trolley or bus traffic. State road crews began work immediately in clearing the highways and motor traffic on the principal routes was not hampered seriously.

The Pacific Coast also had its weather troubles. Smudge pots were being burned in Central and Southern California to protect the oranges and lemons from temperatures that were below freezing, even in Southern California. Last night only slight damage to the California citrus crops was reported.

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