

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS, FEBRUARY, 1924

[The table herewith contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A more complete statement will appear in the Annual Report of the Chief of Bureau]

| Place | Date | Time | Width of path (yards) | Loss of life | Value of property destroyed | Character of storm | Remarks | Authority |
|--|-------|---------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Middle West and Upper Lake region. | 3-6 | | | | | Wind, sleet, snow, and ice. | Train service demoralized, telegraph and telephone poles and wires broken, highways impassable for days. Damage amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars. | Official, U. S. Weather Bureau; Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, Iowa); Journal of Commerce (Chicago); Courier (Evansville, Ind.); Official, U. S. Weather Bureau. |
| Rocky Ridge, Ala. (12 miles south of Birmingham). | 4 | p. m. | | 2 | | Tornado | One home demolished and 5 persons injured | Official, U. S. Weather Bureau. |
| Jack, Coffee County, and Tarentum, Pike County, Ala. | 4 | 9 a. m. | | | | do. | Some buildings destroyed | Do. |
| Southern Indiana | 4 | 3 p. m. | | | \$100,000 | do. | Houses and barns destroyed and orchards ruined near Haubstadt; livestock injured and houses damaged near Howell. | Official, U. S. Weather Bureau; Courier (Evansville, Ind.); Official, U. S. Weather Bureau. |
| Rockingham and Caswell Counties through Iredell to Henderson County, N. C. | 19-20 | | | | \$200,000 | Heavy sleet | Great damage to telephone and telegraph lines and timber. Path 60 miles wide in northern portion and narrow strip at southern end. | Official, U. S. Weather Bureau. |

STORMS AND WEATHER WARNINGS

551.515 (73)
WASHINGTON FORECAST DISTRICT

A storm of marked intensity moved slowly east-northeastward from the lower Missouri Valley to southern New England during the 3d-6th. It was attended by strong shifting winds and gales along the Atlantic coast from Cape Hatteras northward, the highest velocity reported being 52 miles an hour from the east at Block Island, R. I. The necessary warnings were issued well in advance of the occurrence of the high winds.

No further storm warnings were required until the 19th, when a disturbance of moderate intensity was central south of the Louisiana coast and an area of abnormally high pressure covered the Lake region and the middle Atlantic and north Atlantic States. Northeast storm warnings were ordered displayed from Jacksonville, Fla., to Eastport, Me., and they were fully verified from Wilmington, N. C., northward, the following high-wind velocities being reported: Atlantic City, N. J., 68 m. p. h. from SE.; Block Island, R. I., 60, E.; Nantucket, Mass., 60, SE.; and Eastport, Me., 56, E.

During the 25th a storm developed over the western Gulf of Mexico and moved northeastward to southern Alabama, then almost directly eastward to the Georgia coast, after which it turned northeastward, its center passing close to Cape Hatteras at noon of the 27th, the barometer reading 29.26 inches at that place. Continuing its northeastward movement the center of the storm reached Sable Island the morning of the 28th, with a barometer reading of 28.90 inches there. During the 28th its course turned more to the northward and as the storm passed Port aux Basques, N. F., the wind attained a velocity of 94 miles an hour from the east. Storm warnings were ordered in advance of this storm at all points from Bay St. Louis, Miss., eastward on the Gulf coast and along the Atlantic coast as far north as Boston, Mass. The highest wind velocity reported in the South was 36 miles an hour from the northwest at Key West, Fla., but it reached 56 miles an hour from the north at both Cape Henry, Va., and Cape Hatteras, N. C.

Small-craft warnings were displayed along a part of the east Gulf coast on the 4th and 19th, and along portions of the Atlantic coast from Cape Hatteras northward on the 5th, 10th, and 12th.

No cold-wave warnings were issued during the month, except for a part of northern New York on the 15th.

Frost warnings for the south Atlantic and east Gulf coast sections were issued frequently during the first

two weeks of the month and on three dates thereafter. There was an unusually extended period of cool weather in these sections from the 6th to the 11th, inclusive, frost occurring at Jacksonville on the morning of the 6th and at least as far south as the interior of central Florida during the five succeeding nights.

Heavy-snow warnings were issued for New England and western New York, and warnings of heavy snow, sleet, or rain for western Pennsylvania and for the Atlantic States from southern New England to Delaware, inclusive, on the morning of the 19th. These warnings were fully verified. Several stations reported depths of snow on the ground the following morning ranging from 8 inches at Harrisburg, Pa., to 15 inches at Northfield, Vt. At Pittsburgh, Pa., there was an ice and sleet storm during the night of the 19th-20th that coated all exposed objects with ice from half to three-quarters of an inch in thickness. As a result, telephone and telegraph communication throughout the Pittsburgh district was almost entirely disrupted on the morning of the 20th, and communication by radio was resorted to in some cases during the 20th from Pittsburgh to points in the surrounding territory.

Warnings of heavy snow, or heavy snow and rain, were also issued for a considerable area from Ohio eastward in connection with the Gulf storm of the 26th, but they were not verified because of the eastward movement of the storm center from the interior of Alabama to the Georgia coast during the 26th. It was expected that the storm would advance northeastward during the succeeding 24 hours at least.—Charles L. Mitchell.

CHICAGO FORECAST DISTRICT

The month, as a whole, was exceptionally mild, the temperature in the Northwestern States ranging from 10° to 15° above the seasonal normal. The temperature, moreover, varied but little from day to day, and this was in strong contrast to the frequent and great changes during the preceding month of January. While the daily variability in January exceeded all records at several points, the absence of variability in February was fully as marked.

No widespread cold waves moved across the district during the entire month, and no general warnings were issued.

However, there were three storms of considerable importance. The first caused general rain, snow, and sleet on the 3d, 4th, and 5th; the second from the 16th to the 20th; and the third from the 22d to the 24th. The last storm was attended by rather heavy snow in portions of Iowa and Nebraska.—H. J. Cox.