

TABLE 1.—Free-air temperatures and relative humidities obtained by airplanes during the year 1934

TEMPERATURE (°C.)

Stations	Altitude (meters) m. s. l.																	
	Surface		500		1,000		1,500		2,000		2,500		3,000		4,000		5,000	
	Mean	Departure from normal	Mean	Departure from normal	Mean	Departure from normal	Mean	Departure from normal	Mean	Departure from normal	Mean	Departure from normal	Mean	Departure from normal	Mean	Departure from normal	Mean	Departure from normal
Norfolk, Va. ¹ (10 m.)	13.3	-0.9	12.8	-0.6	11.0	-0.4	8.9	-0.3	6.7	-0.1	4.5	0.0	2.2	+0.1				
Omaha, Nebr. ² (300 m.)	7.9	(³)	9.4	(³)	10.8	+2.8	9.7	+3.1	7.6	+3.2	4.8	+3.0	1.8	+2.8	-4.6	+2.2	-11.3	+1.5
Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii ¹ (6 m.)	23.8	-2.1	21.3	-0.4	17.6	-0.1	14.9	-0.2	12.8	+0.1	10.9	-0.1	8.9	-0.3				
Pensacola, Fla. ¹ (24 m.)	16.5	-1.5	15.8	-1.3	13.9	-1.2	11.8	-1.2	9.6	-1.0	7.0	-1.1	4.3	-1.2	-1.5	-1.2	-7.5	-1.1
San Diego, Calif. ¹ (10 m.)	16.1	-1.0	15.6	+0.1	16.4	+0.5	15.2	+0.8	13.4	+0.7	10.6	+0.5	7.8	+0.4	1.2			
Seattle, Wash. ¹ (8 m.)	14.0	+0.6	11.4	+0.9	9.3	+1.1	7.0	+1.1	4.6	+1.1	2.0	+1.0	-0.9	+0.6	-7.2			
Sunnyvale, Calif. ¹ (10 m.)	13.7		12.4		13.2		12.5		10.5		7.4		4.2		-3.1			
Washington, D. C. ¹ (12 m.)	9.9	-2.1	10.0	-0.9	8.5	-0.7	6.6	-0.7	4.8	-0.3	2.8	-0.2	0.6	-0.2				

RELATIVE HUMIDITY (PERCENT)

Norfolk, Va. ¹ (10 m.)	78	+5	70	+5	66	+5	63	+5	60	+5	57	+5	53	+5				
Omaha, Nebr. ² (300 m.)	76	(³)	70	(³)	59	-2	54	-3	51	-4	50	-5	50	-5	50	-3	48	-4
Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii ¹ (6 m.)	77	+11	78	+6	81	+3	76	+4	65	0	53	+1	43	+3				
Pensacola, Fla. ¹ (24 m.)	81	0	74	0	70	+2	66	+3	61	+2	58	+3	56	+5	51	+5	47	+4
San Diego, Calif. ¹ (10 m.)	78	+8	73	+4	55	+3	45	+2	38	+3	36	+4	35	+6	34			
Seattle, Wash. ¹ (8 m.)	69	-2	70	-2	67	-3	64	-2	61	-1	58	0	54	+1	48			
Sunnyvale, Calif. ¹ (12 m.)	77		74		59		47		41		37		35		31			
Washington, D. C. ¹ (13 m.)	74	+3	66	+2	63	+3	61	+3	58	+2	54	+2	51	+3				

Observations taken about 5 a. m., 75th meridian time, except along the Pacific coast and Hawaii where they are taken at daylight.

¹ Navy.

² Weather Bureau.

³ Surface and 500-meter level departures omitted because of difference in time of day between airplane observations and those of kites upon which the normals are based.

RIVERS AND FLOODS

[River and Flood Division, MONTROSE W. HAYES, in charge]

By RICHMOND T. ZOCH

Heavy rains during the last few days of November, continuing in a few places into December, caused some rather high floods in many of the rivers in Virginia and North Carolina.

The Shenandoah had the highest flood since 1924. At Columbia, the James experienced its greatest flood since 1877, although at Richmond it was the highest only since 1924. Damage in the river valleys in North Carolina was considerable, but it was not extensive in the Shenandoah and James Valleys.

The remaining floods shown in the table of flood stages in December were of minor consequence.

The other tables are statements of estimated flood losses, and savings effected by Weather Bureau flood warnings, during 1934.

Table of Flood Stages in December 1934—Continued

[All dates are in December unless otherwise specified]

River and station	Flood stage	Above flood stages—dates		Crest	
		From—	To—	Stage	Date
ATLANTIC SLOPE DRAINAGE					
Lackawaxen: Hawley, Pa.	Feet 6	1	2	6.6	1
Schuykill: Reading, Pa.	7	1	2	11.2	1
Shenandoah: Riverton, Va.	22	2	2	23.7	2
Potomac: Sycamore Island, Md.	10	2	3	12.7	3
James:					
Buchanan, Va.	17	1	1	17.0	1
Lynchburg, Va.	18	1	1	19.6	1
Columbia, Va.	18	Nov. 30	4	31.7	2
Richmond, Va.	8	Nov. 30	4	19.7	3
Dan:					
Danville, Va.	10	1	1	11.3	1
Clarksville, Va.	12	2	3	13.6	3
Roanoke:					
Randolph, Va.	21	1	3	27.0	2
Weldon, N. C.	31	Nov. 30	6	43.3	4
Williamston, N. C.	10	5	14	13.9	8
Fishing Creek: Enfield, N. C.	15	1	3	17.5	2
Tar:					
Rocky Mount, N. C.	10	1	5	13.7	3
Tarboro, N. C.	18	4	8	26.3	6
Greenville, N. C.	14	5	11	18.8	8

River and station	Flood stage	Above flood stages—dates		Crest	
		From—	To—	Stage	Date
ATLANTIC SLOPE DRAINAGE—continued					
Neuse:					
Neuse, N. C.	Feet 15	Nov. 29	6	21.4	Nov. 30
Smithfield, N. C.	14	Nov. 30	7	22.5	2
Haw: Moncure, N. C.	22	1	1	22.0	1
Cape Fear:					
Fayetteville, N. C.	35	2	3	39.0	3
Lock No. 2, Elizabethtown, N. C.	22	1	5	29.3	4
Pee Dee:					
Cheraw, S. C.	27	2	3	32.2	3
Mars Bluff Bridge, S. C.	17	3	9	18.5	8
Poston, S. C.	18	10	11	18.0	10, 11
Santee:					
Rimini, S. C.	12	1	9	14.6	3
		13	14	12.4	14
		20	22	12.6	21
Ferguson, S. C.	12	6	6	12.0	6
Savannah: Ellentown, S. C.	14	4	4	14.0	4
EAST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE					
Tombigbee: Lock No. 3, Ala.	33	29	(¹)	39.2	30
Pearl:					
Jackson, Miss.	18	Nov. 29	2	18.5	1
Monticello, Miss.	15	27	(¹)	24.0	31
West Pearl: Pearl River, La.	12	29	31	17.3	30
		1	7	12.2	5
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM					
Lower Mississippi Basin					
Big Lake Outlet: Manila, Ark.	10	Nov. 26	17	13.5	3, 4
Tallahatchie: Swan Lake, Miss.	26	5	18	27.3	10
WEST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE					
Guadalupe: Victoria, Tex.	21	30	31	23.6	31
PACIFIC SLOPE DRAINAGE					
Columbia Basin					
Coast Fork: Saginaw, Oreg.	9	20	20	9.9	20
Long Tom: Monroe, Oreg.	10	29	31	13.9	31
Santiam: Jefferson, Oreg.	10	20	20	12.5	20
Willamette:					
Harrisburg, Oreg.	10	21	23	13.0	21
Oregon City, Oreg.	12	25	25	12.0	25

¹ Flood continued into January, 1935.

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FLOOD LOSSES DURING THE YEAR 1934

ATLANTIC SLOPE DRAINAGE	
<i>Connecticut River in Connecticut</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	\$11, 200
Prospective crops.....	1, 250
Livestock and other movable property.....	300
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	4, 000
<i>Hudson River in New York</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	800
<i>Chenango River in New York</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	15, 400
Prospective crops.....	4, 000
<i>Susquehanna River in New York and Pennsylvania</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	70, 900
Matured crops.....	2, 000
Prospective crops.....	2, 800
Livestock and other movable property.....	330
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	1, 350
<i>James River in Virginia</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	30, 000
<i>Roanoke River in Virginia and North Carolina</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	3, 000
Prospective crops.....	9, 000
Matured crops.....	4, 800
Livestock and other movable property.....	200
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	17, 500
<i>Tar River in North Carolina</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	60, 000
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	10, 000
<i>Neuse River in North Carolina</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	55, 000
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	9, 000
<i>Cape Fear River in North Carolina</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	11, 000
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	3, 500
<i>Saluda River in South Carolina</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	400
Matured crops.....	700
<i>Broad River in South Carolina</i>	
Prospective crops.....	500
Matured crops.....	1, 000
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	100
<i>Congaree River in South Carolina</i>	
Matured crops.....	500
Livestock and other movable property.....	50
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	1, 000
<i>Santee River in South Carolina</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	300
Prospective crops.....	11, 000
Matured crops.....	10, 000
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	20, 200
<i>Savannah River in Georgia and South Carolina</i>	
Livestock and other movable property.....	250
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	1, 400
<i>Ocmulgee River in Georgia</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	800
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	600
Total.....	<u>376, 130</u>

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FLOOD LOSSES DURING THE YEAR 1934—Continued

EAST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE	
<i>Apalachicola River in Florida</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	\$200
Livestock and other movable property.....	600
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	1, 000
<i>Black Warrior River in Alabama</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	1, 000
Matured crops.....	4, 500
Livestock and other movable property.....	300
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	100
<i>Tombigbee River in Alabama and Mississippi</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	1, 375
Livestock and other movable property.....	250
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	150
<i>Pascagoula River in Mississippi</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	500
Prospective crops.....	100
Matured crops.....	100
Livestock and other movable property.....	200
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	2, 200
<i>Pearl River in Mississippi</i>	
Matured crops.....	300
Livestock and other movable property.....	250
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	1, 580
Total.....	<u>14, 705</u>
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—UPPER MISSISSIPPI BASIN	
<i>Small streams in Minnesota and Wisconsin</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	1, 236, 000
<i>Wisconsin River in Wisconsin</i>	
Prospective crops.....	3, 600
Matured crops.....	750
<i>Bourbeuse River in Missouri</i>	
Matured crops.....	7, 500
Total.....	<u>1, 247, 850</u>
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—MISSOURI BASIN	
<i>Big Sioux River in Iowa and South Dakota</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	70, 000
Prospective crops.....	25, 000
<i>Perry Creek in Iowa</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	130, 000
Prospective crops.....	4, 000
Matured crops.....	1, 000
Livestock and other movable property.....	1, 000
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	1, 000
<i>Floyd River in Iowa</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	278, 000
Prospective crops.....	10, 000
Livestock and other movable property.....	15, 000
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	32, 000
<i>Solomon River in Kansas</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	1, 300
Prospective crops.....	1, 500
Matured crops.....	1, 000
Livestock and other movable property.....	1, 200
<i>Grand River in Missouri</i>	
Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	110, 000
Matured crops.....	521, 370
Livestock and other movable property.....	50, 000
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	575, 000

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FLOOD LOSSES DURING THE YEAR 1934—Continued

MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—MISSOURI BASIN—continued

Missouri River in Kansas and Missouri

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	\$18, 942
Matured crops.....	4, 692
Livestock and other movable property.....	4, 955
Total.....	<u>1, 856, 959</u>

MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—OHIO BASIN

Allegheny River in Pennsylvania

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	92, 600
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	3, 000

Monongahela River in Pennsylvania

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	61, 267
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	4, 000

Kentucky River in Kentucky

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	1, 000
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Barren River in Kentucky

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	500
Prospective crops.....	1, 000
Matured crops.....	500
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	400

Green River in Kentucky

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	300
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	1, 000

Cumberland River in Tennessee

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	151, 975
Prospective crops.....	150, 000
Livestock and other movable property.....	2, 000
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	6, 250

Nolichucky River in Tennessee

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	93, 000
Prospective crops.....	71, 400
Matured crops.....	12, 500
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	1, 000

Elk River in Tennessee

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	7, 050
Prospective crops.....	3, 500
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	600

Duck River in Tennessee

Livestock and other movable property.....	50
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Tennessee River in Tennessee

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	150
Prospective crops.....	500
Livestock and other movable property.....	10, 200
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	5, 300

Ohio River in Kentucky

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	900
Livestock and other movable property.....	100
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	250
Total.....	<u>682, 292</u>

MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—WHITE BASIN

White River in Arkansas

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	1, 500
Prospective crops.....	5, 000
Matured crops.....	600
Livestock and other movable property.....	1, 250
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	1, 000
Total.....	<u>9, 350</u>

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FLOOD LOSSES DURING THE YEAR 1934—Continued

MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—ARKANSAS BASIN

Purgatoire River in Colorado

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	\$800
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MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—RED BASIN

Ouachita River in Arkansas

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	9, 500
Prospective crops.....	10, 000
Matured crops.....	200
Livestock and other movable property.....	5, 400
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	3, 000

Sulphur River in Texas

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	100
Prospective crops.....	10, 100
Livestock and other movable property.....	105
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	2, 500

Small Streams in Oklahoma

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	507, 100
Prospective crops.....	40, 500
Livestock and other movable property.....	40, 000
Total.....	<u>628, 500</u>

MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—LOWER MISSISSIPPI BASIN

Tallahatchie River in Mississippi

Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	100
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WEST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE

Sabine River in Texas

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	91, 600
Prospective crops.....	25, 000
Matured crops.....	225, 000
Livestock and other movable property.....	20, 000
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	50, 000

Trinity River in Texas

Prospective crops.....	7, 800
Livestock and other movable property.....	3, 000
Suspension of business, including wages of employees..	700
Total.....	<u>423, 100</u>

GULF OF CALIFORNIA DRAINAGE

Small Streams in Arizona and Colorado

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	111, 500
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PACIFIC SLOPE DRAINAGE

Small Streams in California

Tangible property totally or partially destroyed.....	5, 000, 000
Total estimated losses for the United States....	<u>10, 351, 291</u>

ESTIMATED VALUE OF PROPERTY SAVED BY WARNINGS

ATLANTIC SLOPE DRAINAGE

Hudson River in New York.....	\$2, 000
Susquehanna River in New York.....	500
James River in Virginia.....	10, 000
Roanoke River in Virginia and North Carolina.....	159, 700
Tar River in North Carolina.....	36, 000
Neuse River in North Carolina.....	39, 000
Cape Fear River in North Carolina.....	30, 000
Peedee River in South Carolina.....	5, 000
Saluda River in South Carolina.....	2, 000
Broad River in South Carolina.....	2, 000
Congaree River in South Carolina.....	3, 000
Santee River in South Carolina.....	13, 000
Savannah River in Georgia and South Carolina.....	33, 900
Ocmulgee River in Georgia.....	3, 500

ESTIMATED VALUE OF PROPERTY SAVED BY WARNINGS—Continued

EAST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE	
Apalachicola River in Florida.....	\$4, 000
Etowah River in Georgia.....	1, 000
Black Warrior River in Alabama.....	7, 500
Tombigbee River in Mississippi and Alabama.....	25, 250
Pascagoula River in Mississippi.....	21, 200
Pearl River in Mississippi.....	2, 075
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—UPPER MISSISSIPPI BASIN	
Wisconsin River in Wisconsin.....	2, 850
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—MISSOURI BASIN	
Big Sioux River in Iowa.....	36, 800
Floyd River in Iowa.....	210, 000
Grand River in Missouri.....	800, 000
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—OHIO BASIN	
Allegheny River in Pennsylvania.....	50, 000
Monongahela River in Pennsylvania.....	200, 000
Barren River in Kentucky.....	10, 000
Green River in Kentucky.....	10, 000

ESTIMATED VALUE OF PROPERTY SAVED BY WARNINGS—Continued

MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—OHIO BASIN—continued	
Cumberland River in Tennessee.....	\$21, 100
Elk River in Tennessee.....	2, 000
Duck River in Tennessee.....	2, 000
Tennessee River in Tennessee.....	20, 000
Ohio River in Indiana and Kentucky.....	80, 156
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—WHITE BASIN	
White River in Arkansas.....	11, 300
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—ARKANSAS BASIN	
Petit Jean River in Arkansas.....	500
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM—RED BASIN	
Ouachita River in Arkansas.....	22, 500
Sulphur River in Texas.....	55, 500
WEST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE	
Sabine River in Texas.....	12, 000
Trinity River in Texas.....	15, 000
Total estimated savings for the United States.....	
	1, 962, 331

WEATHER OF THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS

[The Marine Division, W. F. McDONALD in charge]

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, DECEMBER 1934

By H. C. HUNTER

Atmospheric pressure.—The abnormally low pressure in the general region of the Azores, which prevailed during the final week of November, continued to be a feature of North Atlantic weather during a great part of December 1934, although there and in other southeastern portions of the ocean area the barometer was comparatively high from the 15th to 21st, and again during the final 5 days. Over higher northern latitudes low pressure prevailed throughout the month, particularly near Ireland, where the December average pressure at Valencia was 29.35 inches, more than half an inch below normal, and readings were at all times below 30 inches.

The West Indies and Gulf regions averaged a little above normal pressure. At Bermuda the opening week of December was marked by rather high barometer, but the second week by low.

The highest reading so far reported by a vessel was 30.53 inches on the 20th, by the British steamship *Camito*, about latitude 40° north, longitude 48° west. The lowest pressure was 27.81 inches, encountered by the American steamship *Minnequa*, late on the 24th, near 56° north, 27° west. At about the same longitude, but near 50° latitude, several steamers noted readings almost as low when within an intense storm area during the night of the 13th–14th.

TABLE 1.—Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure (sea level) at selected stations for the North Atlantic Ocean and its shores, December 1934

Station	Average pressure	Departure	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inch</i>	<i>Inches</i>		<i>Inches</i>	
Julianaaba, Greenland.....	29.33	—	29.91	1	28.85	26
Reykjavik, Iceland.....	29.41	-0.06	29.98	4	28.57	11
Lerwick, Shetland Islands.....	29.55	-0.17	30.24	25	29.10	15
Valencia, Ireland.....	29.35	-0.59	29.92	1, 31	28.48	15
Lisbon, Portugal.....	30.10	-0.01	30.52	31	29.78	9
Madeira.....	30.16	+0.07	30.32	30, 31	30.01	12
Horta, Azores.....	29.90	-0.24	30.31	19	29.45	24
Belle Isle, Newfoundland.....	29.48	-0.22	30.15	4	28.64	21
Halifax, Nova Scotia.....	29.87	-0.08	30.34	19	29.04	20
Nantucket.....	30.00	-0.05	30.45	3	29.16	20
Hatteras.....	30.11	-0.02	30.45	27	29.52	19
Bermuda.....	30.07	-0.05	30.38	24	29.60	11, 12
Turks Island.....	30.06	+0.03	30.13	3, 16	29.91	11
Key West.....	30.10	+0.02	30.32	12	29.91	11
New Orleans.....	30.19	+0.06	30.49	11	29.85	18

NOTE.—All data based on a. m. observations only, with departures compiled from best available normals related to time of observation, except Hatteras, Key West, Nantucket, and New Orleans which are 24-hour corrected means.

Cyclones and gales.—Seldom has the North Atlantic Ocean known so stormy a month as December 1934. The number of gale reports in hand at this writing is 283, of which 15 state the highest wind force as 12, and 35 as 11; it is not feasible to present all of the latter group of reports in the accompanying table.

East of Newfoundland the storm centers were usually located north of the chief steamship lanes, so that the strong winds were nearly all from a westerly direction. A characteristic report was that of the American steamship *West Kyska*, bound from Bremen to Panama City, Fla., which left the English Channel late on the 14th, and thereafter, till near 41° N., 25° W., late on the 21st had wind always from a westerly point and at no time of force less than 6.

For the first few days of December the storm activity was not unusually great for the time of the year. But by the 4th a vigorous low was central near Nova Scotia, from whence it advanced to east-northeast and later northeast, till on the 10th it was south of Iceland. Chart VIII, for the 8th, shows this storm affecting a large area near and to eastward of midocean; such fully developed storminess was typical of the period from the 5th to the 20th. A lesser disturbance also is indicated on chart VIII near Cape Hatteras; it had already gained considerable intensity in its progress northward from the region of the Bahamas during the preceding 2 days, and continued to intensify with further progress north-eastward.

Chart IX, for December 11, shows this storm center near midocean and of great intensity. Gales were prevailing on the 11th and 12th from the Bahamas to the Irish coast. Another low was again developing near the American coast, somewhat to eastward of Delaware Bay, traveling northeastward, and behind it the eastern part of the United States was experiencing a marked cold wave.

The storm just mentioned as near Delaware Bay was of great energy by the 13th, centered not far from the Grand Banks, and the situation of that date is shown on chart X. In this storm near 50° N., 35° W., the British steamship *Usworth*, from Montreal for Great Britain, was in distress, and on December 14th she was abandoned; 15 of her crew and 2 officers engaged in the work of rescue