

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A WET THAW

The early January thaw was a piker in comparison with that of this week. A couple of days of slight melting were followed with dramatic suddenness by a flooding thaw and heavy rain. As in the case of the first one, the second January thaw was caused by a slowly moving southwestern low. Warm muggy air drove northward with vigor over the eastern part of the country. Riding over denser fog laden air on the ground, the balmy gale from southern climes wore its way down till with one fell swoop it hit the ground. At one place a rise of six degrees in ten minutes was capped by an almost instantaneous ascent of seven degrees more. Thermometers could not rise fast enough. Warm wind and rain together melted the snow as fast as it had fallen nine days before, that is, about an inch an hour.

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