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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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MILD-WINTER ECONOMICS

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Authority on Meteorology

The winter of 1933-34 was the mildest on record in the northwestern corner of the United States, including Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Discussing some of the economic effects of the exceptional weather in that region, E. M. Keyser, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, writes:

"Crews of workmen engaged on projects at the higher elevations where snow ordinarily interferes with work were able to keep going all winter. The cost of snow removal in cities was much below normal, in most cases being entirely eliminated. Railroads also had a minimum of expense for clearing the tracks of snow. While winter wheat remained for the most part uncovered, it did not need any cover as the usual alternate thawing and freezing and heaving was absent. The three prominent ski tournaments in the Northwest were saved from utter failure only by the energetic activities of their promoters. Hood River, Oregon, and Leavenworth and Spokane, Washington, all transported snow to their ski courses. In the case of Spokane the ski course was 100 per cent. artificial, snow being brought for the purpose 200 miles from the Cascades. So far as we have been able to ascertain not one of several ice harvesting companies in the district harvested any lake or river ice, natural ice being brought in from Dakota. Skating parties on lakes or streams were extremely rare and artificial ice rink parties were more numerous than usual. Frozen water pipes and frozen radiators brought scant revenue to plumbers and garage men. Farmers continued to plow during January and February."

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