

NIGHT VICTIMS GET LITTLE RELIEF

Freezing Weather That Prevents Moisture From Sinking into Ground

Freezing weather that would cause pain soaking into the ground, expressed last night throughout the city, following the rainfall which, it is generally reported, afforded only slight relief.

In the northern part of the State, where the rain was needed most, the least. Even where the rainfall measured an inch or more it had no perceptible effect on scant sources of water supply.

In the northern part of the State, where the water situation was acute for some time, reported that although 1.64 inches of rain fell in twenty-four hours, there would be no let-up in conservation measures.

Conditions in Shamokin

At Shamokin, where there was only an inch of rain, dam and reservoirs continued empty. The Eagle Silk Mills, employing 2500 persons, had to shut down its power plant yesterday for lack of water. Power is now being purchased for the mills from a Shamokin plant. Additional tank trains were put into service to Sunbury to collect water from the Shamokin-Mount Carmel district.

Definite information has been received from a score of counties that the drought has done much damage to winter wheat. The State Department of Agriculture said Venango County was the only one making a good showing. Other winter wheat reports from counties are as follows:

Armstrong—Very short.
Berks—Looks fair.
Bradford—Owing to dry weather wheat has not the top it should have.
Center—Late sown grain growing slowly.
Chester—Very poor.
Crawford—Fair for winter grain.
Dauphin—Under normal.
Similar reports have also been received from Franklin, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Fayette, Lancaster, Northampton, Westmoreland and York Counties.

Cold Change Feared

An early freeze now is feared by the farmers. A cold wave is reported moving eastward, and the temperature is expected to reach the freezing point. In the groups of trees frozen before there are more rains a winter water famine is a possibility, as the water would not sink into the ground. Crops and vegetable growth would also be without proper nourishment in this event.

Reports from many sections are that much more rain is needed to make the water supply normal in rivers, creeks, reservoirs and cisterns. The Schuylkill rose two inches after the rain, but last night was again subsiding rapidly. Foresters and woodsmen in Schuylkill Valley said the rain did not get through the dense underbrush and did not penetrate the layers of dead leaves so as to wet the rocks and mosses at the roots of trees. The moisture that got through the sub-soil before there will be any increase in the water supply.

Shannon City last night reported the water situation in that section had reached its most acute stage, with the nearby towns of Girardville and Mahanoy Plane on a ration of two hours daily.

At Leona, at the foot of the Allegheny Mountains, reported .73 of an inch of rainfall, with a noticeable increase in the streams feeding the municipal reservoirs there and at Dunlap, Tyrone, Clearing Springs, Bellwood, Gallitzin, Crosson and other towns which have been short on water.

Snow in Hazleton

Hazleton, in the Lehigh field, had a two-inch snowfall, followed by rain. Considerably more rain was said to be needed in that section for relief of drought conditions.

Pittsburgh reported much colder weather last night, with no prospect of a further rainfall for some time.

Reports to the Pennsylvania Railroad, which curtailed freight service in the Pottsville region because of lack of water to supply locomotives, were that the rain had not alleviated conditions to any extent.

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