

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEATHER BUREAU.

CALIFORNIA SECTION.

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GENERAL SUMMARY.

Cold and dry weather prevailed in California during December. For the State as a whole, the mean temperature was about 3° below the normal, while the average precipitation was about two inches, or 48 per cent, below the normal. In the interior valleys the days were warm and the nights were cold. Great daily ranges of temperature occurred, and ranges of 50° to 60° were common. Accelerated nocturnal radiation through the clear, dry air caused frost to form on many mornings in the agricultural portions of the State. The number of days on which frost occurred at certain stations follows: Fresno, 19; Sacramento, 18; Red Bluff, 16; San Jose, 13; San Luis Obispo, 11; San Francisco and Los Angeles, 10 each. Precipitation was deficient throughout the State, and snowfall in the mountains was relatively light. Precipitation was general during two periods, between the 5th and 9th, and from the 19th to 21st. No severe storms occurred. More than the usual amount of sunshine was received, while the wind movement was below normal. Streams maintained low stages, and at the close of the month many of the smaller streams in the elevated regions were frozen. Seasonable weather prevailed during the first week, and the highest temperatures of the month occurred at most stations between the 2d and 5th. The remainder of the month was abnormally cold. Temperatures below zero were general in the mountain and plateau regions during the last ten days of the month. The last day of the year proved to be the coldest day of the year at numerous stations.

The deficient precipitation and the abnormal cold were harmful from an agricultural viewpoint. Winter growing grains and vegetables, which had made a good start during the favorable weather of the preceding months, were in need of additional moisture before the close of December. Grass on the winter ranges became scarce. In northern California all citrus fruit had been harvested before the advent of the cold weather. Frost did considerable damage to unharvested citrus fruit in southern California, however. The trees were uninjured. In spite of the diminished production expected to result from frost damage, it is estimated that the orange crop now being harvested will be more than twice as large as that of last year. The maturing crop of lemons is expected to exceed all previous crops, owing to a heavy set of fruit and increased bearing acreage. The clear and cold weather was well suited for farming operations of all kinds. The fine weather was used to good advantage in the performance of the varied duties which mark the close of one cropping season and which precede the beginning of the next.

A. H. P.

PRESSURE.

The mean sea level pressure, determined from the records of twelve regular Weather Bureau stations, was 30.10 inches. The highest was 30.49 inches at Independence on the 2d; the lowest was 29.55 inches at Point Reyes on the 20th; the range for the State was 0.94 inch.

TEMPERATURE.

The monthly mean temperature for the State, as shown by the records of 99 stations, was 43.8°, which is 2.9° below the normal. The highest monthly mean was 57.2°, at Los Angeles; and the lowest was 23.2°, at Madeline. The highest temperature, 89°, occurred at El Cajon on the 3d, and at King City on the 4th; and the lowest, -16°, occurred at Madeline on the 31st. The range for the State was 105°.

PRECIPITATION.

The average precipitation for the State, as shown by the records of 220 stations, was 2.10 inches, or 1.90 inch below the normal. The greatest monthly amount was 7.12 inches, at Crescent City. Two stations reported no precipitation. The greatest amount in 24 hours was 2.82 inches at Opid Camp on the 7th.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY, SUNSHINE AND CLOUDINESS.

Table with columns: Stations, Relative humidity (5 a. m., 5 p. m., Mean), Sunshine (Actual No. of hours, Per cent of possible). Rows include Eureka, Fresno, Independence, Los Angeles, Mount Tamalpais, Red Bluff, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Luis Obispo.

WIND MOVEMENT.—(Miles.)

Table with columns: Stations, Total mov. for month, Ave. hr. velocity, Maximum velocity, Direction, Date, Prev. dir. Rows include Eureka, Fresno, Independence, Los Angeles, Mount Tamalpais, Point Reyes, Red Bluff, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Luis Obispo.

COMPARATIVE DATA FOR DECEMBER.

Table with columns: Year, Mean temp., Ave. precip. Rows include 1897-1902, 1903-1904, 1905-1906, 1907-1908, 1909-1910, 1911-1912, 1913-1914, 1915-1918.

The departures from the normal temperature and precipitation are computed only for such stations as have ten or more years of record, but all complete reports are used in determining section or division means. † Also on other dates: a, b, c, etc., indicate respectively, 1, 2, 3, etc., days missing from the record.

Daily evaporation (inches) and wind movement (miles) for December, 1918.

Table with columns: Stations, Data, Day of Month (1-31), Monthly. Rows include Chula Vista, Dodgeland, Oakdale, Tahoe.

\* Observation taken at 7 a. m.; \*\* at 8 a. m. † Included in next following entry. 1 Ele. 9 ft.; 10 miles SE of San Diego. 2 Ele. 125 ft.; 16 miles SW of Chico. 3 Ele. 215 ft.; Woodward Reservoir, 8 miles N of Oakdale. 4 Ele. 6230 feet; float in Lake Tahoe.

Climatological Data for December, 1918.

Table with columns: Stations, Counties, Elevation, Length of record, Temperature (Mean, Departure from normal, Highest, Date, Lowest, Date, Greatest daily range, Total, Departure from normal, Greatest in 24 hours, Snowfall, Precipitation, Number of days (Clear, Partly cloudy, Cloudy), Prevailing direction of wind, Observers.



Daily Temperature for December, 1918.

Table with 32 columns for stations (1-31) and a Mean column. Rows list various California cities like Bakersfield, Calexico, Chico, Escondido, Eureka, Fresno, Independence, Los Angeles, Merced, Mount Tamalpais, Oakland, Orland, Oroville, Paso Robles, Point Reyes, Pomona, Porterville, Red Bluff, Redlands, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa, and Stockton, with their respective maximum and minimum temperatures for each day.

SUPPLEMENTAL PRECIPITATION TABLE.

Table with 12 columns: Stations, Watersheds, and Precip. inches. It lists precipitation data for various locations such as Abbotts, Agnanga, Alder Creek, Angiola, Antelope Valley, Arroyo Seco, Auberry, Auburn, Bagdad, Barrett Dam, Beaumont, Big Bar, Bishop, Bishop Creek, Bridgeport, Cambell, Camp Baldy, Camp Bonita, Campo, Camp Rincon, Canon Dam, Cascada, Centerville, Chester, China Flat, Churn Creek, Clovis, Clyde Ranch, Colby Springs, Coldbrock, Colusa, Covelo, Crockett, Cuyamaca, Deer Creek, Del Monte, Denair, and De Sable, along with their watersheds and precipitation amounts.

**SNOWFALL IN THE MOUNTAINS.**

On December 1st there was little or no snow on the ground in the Coast Ranges or in the mountains of southern California. However, there was some snow above the 5,000-foot level in the Sierra Nevada, the greatest amount reported being that at Summit, Placer County, altitude 7,017 feet, where the depth was 20 inches. Low temperatures prevented this snow from melting rapidly.

On December 5th a well-defined storm approaching from the northwest gave moderately heavy rainfall along the northern coast of California, and during the following four days precipitation was general throughout the State. In the Coast Ranges and in the mountains of southern California a portion of this precipitation was in the form of snow, but it melted within a few days. Above the 5,000-foot level in the Sierra most of the precipitation accompanying the eastward passage of this storm was in the form of snow. About 25 inches of new snow was added at the 7,000-foot level. Warm sunshine and desiccating winds caused it to disappear rapidly during the following ten days. However, in spite of its rapid disappearance the stages of streams did not show any marked rise during this period.

From the 19th to the 21st light but general precipitation occurred. A few inches of snow fell in the Coast Ranges and in the mountains of the southern portion of the State. In the Sierra the amounts ranged from five inches at the 5,000-foot level to 15 inches at the 7,000-foot level, with somewhat greater amounts beyond that height. A recurrence of warm sunshine and drying winds caused much of this snow to disappear before the end of the month. At the close of the month there was little snow anywhere in California except in the higher portions of the Sierra Nevada, where the amount on the ground was about 25 per cent of the normal for that time of the year. The greatest amount on the ground at any of the 300 stations from which reports were received was 32 inches, at Tamarack, Alpine County, altitude 8,000 feet.

The snowfall during December was relatively light throughout California. The deficiency was least in the plateau region of the extreme northeastern portion of the State, where a few stations received somewhat more than the normal December snowfall. Throughout the Sierra, however, the snowfall was everywhere deficient, and less than 50 per cent of the normal amount was received. The greatest snowfall reported was that of 54 inches, which occurred at Tamarack. There was everywhere a marked deficiency of densely packed snow of the kind which usually forms the source of summer water supply for irrigation and hydroelectric interests. A. H. P.

**COMPARATIVE SNOWFALL DATA FOR DECEMBER.**

(Amount on the Ground.)

	FORDYCE DAM.			SUMMIT.			TAMARACK.		
	1st.	15th.	End of mo.	1st.	15th.	End of mo.	1st.	15th.	End of mo.
1906.....	2	60	60	5	70	46	55	101	125
1907.....	0	30	72	0	42	87	0	39	74
1908.....	11	27	21	24	32	21	29	43	32
1909.....	2	25	43	2	24	45	26	52	65
1900.....	5	2	0	7	4	4	8	21	24
1911.....	4	1	44	1	2	56	3	5	45
1912.....	6	22	30	T.	14	19	3	29	42
1913.....	35	35	60	31	24	80	35	41	110
1914.....	8	40	31	12	46	26	10	31	27
1915.....	9	57	45	6	67	40	3	67	48
1916.....	15	42	74	14	16	77	7	32	86
1917.....	4	0	0	6	0	0	16	8	8
1918.....	17	23	23	20	17	16	17	27	32

T. means trace.

**Snowfall Data. [In inches.]**

WATERSHED, COUNTY, STATION.	Elevation, feet.	Total snowfall.	Compr'd with normal.	Am't on ground 15th.	Am't on ground end mo.
<b>Klamath Watershed.</b>					
<i>Siskiyou County.</i>					
Yreka.....	2,625	2	.....	0	0
<i>Trinity County.</i>					
Hayfork.....	2,300	1	.....	T.	T.
Ruth.....	2,925	14	.....	0	0
Weaverville.....	2,162	3	.....	0	0
<b>Mountain Lakes.</b>					
<i>Modoc County.</i>					
Alturas.....	4,400	11	+ 4	1	3
Cedarville.....	4,675	9	- 2	2	2
Fort Bidwell.....	4,375	15	.....	4	3
<i>Lassen County.</i>					
Eagle Lake.....	5,000	8	-10	3	3
Madeline.....	5,270	15	+ 5	2	5
<i>Nevada County.</i>					
Grass Valley.....	2,690	0	.....	0	0
Nevada City.....	2,850	0	- 3	0	0
North Bloomfield.....	3,214	1	- 6	0	0
Truckee.....	5,817	7	.....	3	T.
<i>Placer County.</i>					
Gold Run.....	3,222	0	- 6	0	0
Tahoe.....	6,230	18	.....	11	12
<i>Inyo County.</i>					
Bishop.....	4,450	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bishop Creek.....	8,390	24	- 4	7	8
Lone Pine.....	3,728	0	.....	0	0
Wells Meadow.....	5,280	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>Sacramento Watershed.</b>					
<i>Siskiyou County.</i>					
McCloud.....	3,270	7	-22	2	T.
Sisson.....	3,555	14	-10	0	T.
<i>Plumas County.</i>					
Bucks.....	5,515	23	-34	21	21
Canon Dam.....	4,570	13	.....	11	10
Chester.....	4,550	14	-15	7	6
Clover Valley.....	5,700	16	0	5	5
La Porte.....	5,000	16	-21	9	8
Portola.....	4,832	7	.....	2	0
Quincy.....	3,400	2	- 8	0	0
<i>Butte County.</i>					
De Sable.....	2,500	4	- 6	0	0
Inskip.....	4,975	33	- 8	15	13
West Branch.....	3,216	2	-19	0	0
<i>Yuba County.</i>					
Camptonville.....	3,500	1	-12	0	0
<i>Sierra County.</i>					
Downieville.....	3,150	1	-16	0	0
Sierraville.....	5,000	8	-10	6	2
<i>Nevada County.</i>					
Deer Creek.....	3,700	6	-17	1	T.
Fordyce Dam.....	6,500	25	-28	23	23
Lake Spaulding.....	4,600	24	-30	7	6
<i>Placer County.</i>					
Blue Canon.....	4,695	22	- 7	10	2
Emigrant Gap.....	5,230	15	-24	5	1
Summit.....	7,017	40	-32	17	16
<b>San Joaquin Watershed.</b>					
<i>Alpine County.</i>					
Tamarack.....	8,000	54	.....	27	32
Twin Lakes.....	7,970	.....	.....	.....	.....
<i>Tuolumne County.</i>					
Hetch Hetchy.....	3,665	6	.....	0	0
Lake Eleanor.....	4,700	14	-10	T.	T.
<i>Kern County.</i>					
Glennville.....	3,300	T.	- 7	0	0
<i>Mariposa County.</i>					
Yosemite.....	3,945	4	-13	0	0
<i>Fresno County.</i>					
Camp Seven.....	6,980	13	.....	18	16
Cascada.....	4,900	6	.....	0	0
Hume.....	5,300	.....	.....	.....	.....
Huntington Lake.....	6,950	36	.....	15	18
Stevenson Creek.....	4,250	10	.....	.....	.....
<i>Tulare County.</i>					
Hot Springs.....	3,300	4	+ 2	0	0
Springville.....	4,000	8	- 4	0	1
<b>Mountains of Southern California.</b>					
Cuyamaca.....	4,677	6	+ 4	0	3
Julian.....	4,222	6	.....	0	T.
Mount Wilson.....	5,704	4	.....	T.	T.
Nellie.....	5,350	10	.....	0	T.
Seven Oaks.....	5,000	8	- 4	0	0
Squirrel Inn.....	5,280	9	- 2	0	0