

COLD SNOW BREAKS DECEMBER RECORD

Mercury Descends to 12.4 Degrees Above Zero.

MILK DELIVERIES RESUME

Waterfront Warned Against Flood Conditions: Schools to Stay Closed Until Monday.

(Continued From First Page.)

and with street-car service resumed, milk and bread and fuel deliveries again launched, though not at full tide, the average citizen hastened downtown to talk it all over as a prelude to starting a routine day.

Milk Deliveries Resumed. At midnight last night street-car service, through the unremitting efforts of the company, was practically 90 per cent of normal, with all save a few stub lines in operation, and with most of the main lines open and operating to their terminals.

Milk deliveries were resumed yesterday by the distributing concerns, with service to all suburban stores, but with no attempt made to distribute to private patrons along routes. Dealers said that while the supply from the country has been curtailed, with but a limited number of the dairymen making deliveries to the depots, there is little danger of a milk famine, as the supply on hand is sufficient for today unless weather conditions again interfere.

Horse-Drawn Vehicles Installed. Early yesterday the Oregon Dairy-men's league, which supplies many restaurants, hotels and stores, relieved the paralysis of delivery in the country by installing horse-drawn vehicles on its rural routes, and thus insuring delivery at the stations for shipment to Portland.

Fuel dealers were making no deliveries yesterday, save in exceptional cases where they had information that actual suffering was in prospect unless coal or wood reached the home. These deliveries were made with light cars or wagons. Dealers say that they hope to resume at least partial delivery today, when the entrances to the yards will be cleared and when street traffic will have packed the drifts in the residential districts enough to permit the operation of fuel trucks.

Plows Clear Street Car Tracks. Both milk and bread delivery cars were among the first to plow into the drifts and set out to the relief of the residential sections. But even these would have been prevented from travel had it not been for the plows that the street car company had out along its lines, with brooms and plows, to restore its own service.

Power company reported that service to be at least 90 per cent of normal, with the following lines in complete or partial operation: Columbia, Alberta, to East Thirtieth and Alberta; Broadway, to Twenty-fourth street and Fremont; Brookline, all open; Beaumont, all open; Bridge transfer, Burnside to Lincoln; Council Crest, to Patton road; Depot and Morrison open; Fulton and Nebraska to Hawthorne, to East Fifty-fourth street; Mount Scott, all open to the end of the line at Lewis and Clark; Kenton, all open; Mount Tabor, to East Fifteenth street; Montavilla, to East Eighteenth street; Northside, to Twenty-sixth and Clinton; Rose City to East Seventy-second street; Sellwood, all open; Sunnyside, all open; North and South, all open; Sunnyvale open on west side to Eleventh and Hill streets, east side all open; Williams avenue, all open; Vancouver, all open; Woodlawn, all open; Woodstock, to East Forty-second and Holgate.

Service on the interurban lines of the Portland Railway, Light & Power company will have resumed practically to normal by noon today, according to the expectations of officials in charge. The regular service will be installed on the Troutdale, Oregon City, and Estacada lines, cars running on the usual schedules. The Beston line is not yet open, but will be cleared by noon today. It is expected that the Oregon City cars will run only as far as Twelfth street, Oregon City. Milwaukie and Gresham cars will be run according to regular schedules.

All day the streetcar company and the municipal streetcleaning bureau attacked the packed snowfall and the drifts. In the downtown district Alex. Donaldson, in charge of the streetcleaning bureau, had 30 trucks in constant operation clearing the streets. The trucks were captained by Porter Yett, and the shovel brigade of 100 men, working in two shifts of eight hours each, was largely recruited from the ranks of ex-service men registered at Liberty temple.

Snow Dumped Into River. For 16 hours, without a break, the streetcleaning bureau's trucks, each bearing four and one-half cubic yards of snow, averaging 2500 pounds to the load, dumped one load a minute into the river at the Alder and Washington-street docks. The downtown streets were kept clear of all snowfall, but in the residential districts Superintendent Donaldson will press plows into service, clearing away a thoroughfare on each side of the car tracks, wide enough for vehicular traffic.

"I had charge of the trucks during the heavy storms of 1915 and 1916," said Porter Yett, "and I want to say a word for the ex-service men who are on the job with me this time. They are handling twice as much snow per man as ever we did before, and are the best workers that I have ever had. They go at it like they were taking a trench—good boys and good workmen, every last one of them. Nearly every one of the force of 190 men, working in two shifts, their ages ranging from 17 to 36 years."

Boys Grasp Opportunity. Proof that former soldiers, out of employment when the blizzard blew in, eagerly grasped the opportunity to work is found in the records of the Portland chapter of the American Red Cross. Despite the bitter weather and the fact that the Red Cross stands ready to aid the families of former service men, there were no

HOW PORTLAND IS RIDDING HERSELF OF THE SNOW BLANKET THAT CAME WITH THE BLIZZARD



more calls for aid during the storm than usual. "Every one of the boys, it seems," said a Red Cross official, "jumped at the chance to get to work, even in that bitter storm."

Resumption of service on the street car lines was unavoidably hampered and delayed, in many instances by the vehicular traffic which used the cleared tracks. Lumbering motor trucks and autos, turning into the drifts to gain the open lanes of the tracks, speedily filled the lines up again and caused minor blockades, necessitating another visit of the snow-plow and the rotary broom.

Carline Company Relied On. "Is Eastmoreland line open yet?" came a telephone query to the street car company's traffic department. "We hope to have it open in the morning," was the reply.

"Shucks, that's too bad," answered the distant voice, "we wanted to send our oil trucks out there."

Similar telephone inquiries, patiently answered in the belief that streetcar patrons were asking about service, brought frenzy to the traffic officials of the company. One inquiry was as to the condition of the Rose City Line. "Janine," the information seeker, "I can drive my car out home."

Schools Closed Until Monday. Portland schools will not reopen until Monday. The severity of the storm closed them effectually, and the depths of the resultant drifts, with the consequent dangers from excavation and snowfall, led school officials to declare a continuance of the enforced holiday until the streets are cleared.

But the children are far too busy at their own affairs, for that matter, to return at once to books and desks. On every street, a steady stream of boys and girls were enjoying the unaccustomed sport of coasting and sledding, and snowballing and planing, and fancy tumbling in the huge drifts.

Relative to the fuel situation Mayor Baker yesterday called the leading fuel dealers and requested that they equip wagons with runners, so that delivery of wood and coal might be carried on in the event that the storm should turn again or that the streets are not cleared within a day or so. Mayor Baker based his plea on instances of hardship, for lack of fuel deliveries, that have come to his attention.

Flood Stage Held Likely. That a Chinook wind or a sudden change of warm weather will almost certainly bring about a flood stage of the Willamette and Columbia rivers is the opinion of many close observers. They declare that the rapid melting of the immense volume of snow will gorge the streams to repletion and will endanger water front property. Advice is given that float in the property and materials along the water front be securely lashed, to prepare for an sudden rise in the river.

At the same time the Willamette river bore a thin sheet of ice from bank to bank yesterday morning, while navigators reported the ice to be running heavily in the Columbia. If the ice in the main channel becomes any thicker, say the river captains, the steamers will not be longer be safe.

Rail Service Nearly Normal. One of the encouraging features of the storm is that yesterday it melted the snow sufficiently to insure a frozen top, with the bulk of the snow packed in the branches. Under such a condition a violent wind cannot bring about drifting and there is little danger that the snow will pile up on the ground and again interfere with traffic.

Railroad service was almost normal last night, though schedules were still shattered to some extent. Trains were in regular operation on all main lines and on most of the branch lines. Outbound trains were leaving the depots practically on time, but inbound trains continued to be late from one to several hours.

During the storm Lipman, Wolfe & Co., through its welfare department, turned over two floors of the big de-



partment store for the housing of its employees, so that no inconvenience or hardship was caused to the store force by the blizzard.

City is Joyous. The psychological effect of the storm—to be bromidic—was a genuine city-wide spirit of jollity. Strangers laughed with one another as they plodded through the drifts, and belated, stalled street cars were filled with folk who chatted away as though they had been neighbors all their lives.

The downtown streets were replet with incidents and minor perils—from an icy crossing to the shoveful of snow that came swishing down from the top of an office building. Many a pedestrian, slipping cautiously along the walk, was showered with frozen clods of snow by some energetic worker ten stories above the street.

The blizzard broke records for many years, and has but few equals in the official annals of the weather bureau for Portland, so far as any December is concerned. Two days' fall of snow was 17.5 inches, with a temperature yesterday morning of 12.4 degrees above.

On the 16th, 17th and 18th of December, 1884, the storm had a close parallel, when 20.2 inches fell. On the first day of that storm the mercury dropped to 12 degrees above. A heavier snowfall for two days was recorded from December 21 to 23, 1892, when 27 1/2 inches was recorded.

On December 16 and 24, 1884, the latter day being unaccompanied by storm, the mercury fell to 12 degrees above.

On December 23, 1879, the registration was but 3 degrees above, constituting the coldest day for that month ever recorded in Portland.

ALBANY HAS THAW-FREEZES Traffic Conditions Improved and Trains Are Running. ALBANY, Or., Dec. 11.—(Special.)—Traffic conditions in Albany were greatly improved today because of well-beaten tracks through the deep snow. Train service on the branch lines out of Albany was resumed today except on the Albany-Detroit line. It is planned to send an engine and freight cars over that line in the morning to try to break a way for a passenger train tomorrow afternoon.

Under the effect of sunshine the snow thawed a little in this section

of the state this afternoon, but it is freezing again tonight. A minimum temperature of 11 degrees above was reached here last night, the lowest mark of the year.

The public schools here resumed work today but the attendance was not up to normal.

MAIN STREETS CLEARED

CREWS EMPLOYED BY CITY TO CART AWAY SNOW.

Ex-Service Men Also Employed. Two Caterpillars and Grading Machines Facilitate Work.

Snow fairly flew yesterday from the shovels of several hundred workmen employed by the city into the many trucks, dump carts and other vehicles used to haul the snow on to the river. In addition to the work of the men, the city operated two large tractors, of the latest type, to which were attached large grading machines, and two small caterpillars which also dragged grading machines plowing the snow high on the sides of the street.

Alex. Donaldson, superintendent of the street cleaning bureau, was in charge of the forces which worked yesterday and last night. Porter Yett was in charge of the trucks utilized in clearing the streets.

Through the work performed yesterday the various arteries leading to the business district were also cleared sufficiently to allow automobiles and street cars free passage.

The city used ex-service men in addition to the regular street cleaning forces. More than 100 men were employed at Liberty temple, and worked in two eight-hour shifts.

Criticism directed against the city administration for the apparent failure to clear the streets soon enough was answered yesterday by Mayor Baker, who said that the fall on Tuesday, according to the weather bureau reports, was a little more than three inches, not sufficient to hamper travel of either automobiles or street cars.

Operations in logging camps and mills in this city and vicinity are at a standstill.

The city was without power today as a result of the Coal Creek power plant of the North Power company suspending operations. A shortage of coal was the cause.

All local schools, with the exception of the Oakview school, closed this morning.

Storm of Long Duration. PRINEVILLE, Or., Dec. 11.—(Special.)—Cold weather, with the thermometer standing 8 degrees below Monday morning, has gradually moderated and given away to one of the heaviest snow storms ever known in this section. Snow fell all day Tuesday, and by noon Monday evening, 4 inches covered the ground in this city. Indications are favorable for a storm of long duration, which is pleasing to farmers.

Four Feet of Snow at Madras. MADRAS, Or., Dec. 11.—(Special.)—The Madras country will probably be off the map for some days to come owing to an unprecedented fall of snow, which began Monday evening and has fallen constantly to the present time. The depth now measures four feet and is still coming. As there is no wind it is a level plain, and farmers see visions of abundant crops for the coming year. The schools are closed. The temperature is moderate.

Harney Enjoys Snow. BURNS, Or., Dec. 11.—(Special.)—Zero weather was experienced here for the first time this winter when the thermometer went to 20 below. Harney county has had one of the most delightful snowfalls in the memory of the oldest inhabitant, and while the ground is covered with snow several inches deep, the sun shines every day. The people wish for more snow, which will insure good crops.

Two Below at Chehalis. CHEHALIS, Wash., Dec. 11.—(Special.)—The record cold weather for years was reported at Chehalis this morning, two degrees below zero, the lowest recorded in the city. The night was clear and no snow fell. Today the sun is shining brightly and a south wind is a hopeful sign that possibly a rain may come within the next 24 hours. Some of the pioneers say the present "cold spell" is the most severe since 1874.

Mosier in Grasp of Winter. MOSIER, Or., Dec. 11.—(Special.)—A spell of real winter has the Mosier county in its grasp this week. Snow fell incessantly, with the thermometer ranging between 10 and 15 degrees above zero.

Pendleton Store Robbed. PENDLETON, Or., Dec. 11.—(Special.)—Clothing valued at about \$500 was taken from Alexander's department store here last night by a robber, who dropped in through the skylight. Nothing was left to indicate the identity of the thief.

New Mill Under Way. MARSHFIELD, Or., Dec. 11.—(Special.)—A new sawmill is being constructed at Lakeside by residents of that district who intend having it in operation in January. The owners

are Charles and John Thom and Paul Ricker, who expect to find a ready market for their output. The mill will be of only 10,000 feet capacity at first, but later may be enlarged. The industry will be within a short distance of the Southern Pacific yards and thus convenient for loading and shipping.

Willamette Has Easy Contest. WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, Salem, Dec. 11.—(Special.)—For the benefit of students who do not care to enter the trout for debate and oratory, a local essay contest has been arranged by Forensic Manager McGrew. The subject for the essays has not been given out, but \$10 and \$5 prizes will be awarded to winners of first and second places in the competition.

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