

Late Snows Apparently Have Averted Threat Of Power Lack In Northwest

PORTLAND, Ore., April 21 (AP)—Late snows apparently have averted a threatened power shortage in the Pacific Northwest, water forecasters said here today.

They reported after snow measurements that the water supply outlook is 5 to 20 per cent above average in British Columbia, Idaho, Western Montana, Oregon and Washington.

They said in the annual Columbia river basin water forecast meeting that the outlook was excellent, both for power and irrigation the rest of the year.

Until the late snows, a power and irrigation water shortage had been feared.

James C. Marr, Boise, irrigation engineer of the soil conservation service and chairman of the meeting, said wet soils were general throughout the region and a sustained runoff of water is probable for irrigation and power.

Isolated Pockets

A few isolated pockets in the area were reported below normal. H. D. Hafferson, Boise, bureau of reclamation, said pumping would be necessary on the Okanogan irrigation project in North Central Washington and on the Vale-Owyhee project on the Oregon-Idaho line. Elsewhere the prospects are excellent.

Four agencies making predictions on the summer flow and flood stage of the Columbia river below The Dalles, agreed on the prospect of flood stages but varied as to extent.

The Portland office of the weather bureau predicted a river peak about June 15 at 18½ feet at Portland and 19 feet at Vancouver. Flood stage is 15 feet at Vancouver. The army engineer corps announced it is preparing for a stage of 20½ feet at Portland and 21½ at Vancouver about June 16.

George H. Canfield, district engineer of the U. S. geological survey, Portland, summarized the predictions of four agencies, including the Bonneville power administration and soil conservation services on the basis of peak flow at The Dalles and total summer flow from April through September.

His summary showed an average forecast of peak flow of 551,000 second feet compared with 542,000 second feet reached last year on May 11, much earlier than usual. Average estimate of summer runoff as measured at The Dalles is 95 million acre feet.

A committee was appointed to try to reconcile a reported variation between Columbia river measurements at The Dalles compared with those taken at Bonneville turbines.

British People's Health Excellent

LONDON, April 21 (AP)—The British people's health was tops last winter despite their skimpy food rations.

Reporting record low figures for many diseases, the health ministry said the death rate was only 12.3 per 1000 during the first three months of 1948. It was 17 per thousand in the same period in 1947.

Sir William Jameson, the ministry's chief medical officer, told a news conference that influenza deaths were the fewest on record and pneumonia cases were down 25 per cent from the total for the 1947 period.

A year ago the winter was the worst in 50 years. Last winter was mild. Rations were shorter, however, than at any time since rationing began with the outbreak of war.

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