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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

REPORT FOR JANUARY, 1900.

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE SECTION

OF THE

CLIMATE AND CROP SERVICE

OF THE

WEATHER BUREAU.

IN COOPERATION WITH THE

MARYLAND STATE WEATHER SERVICE.

(Prof. Wm. B. Clark, Director; Prof. Milton Whitney, Secretary and Treasurer.)

PREPARED UNDER DIRECTION OF
WILLIS L. MOORE,
CHIEF OF WEATHER BUREAU.

BY

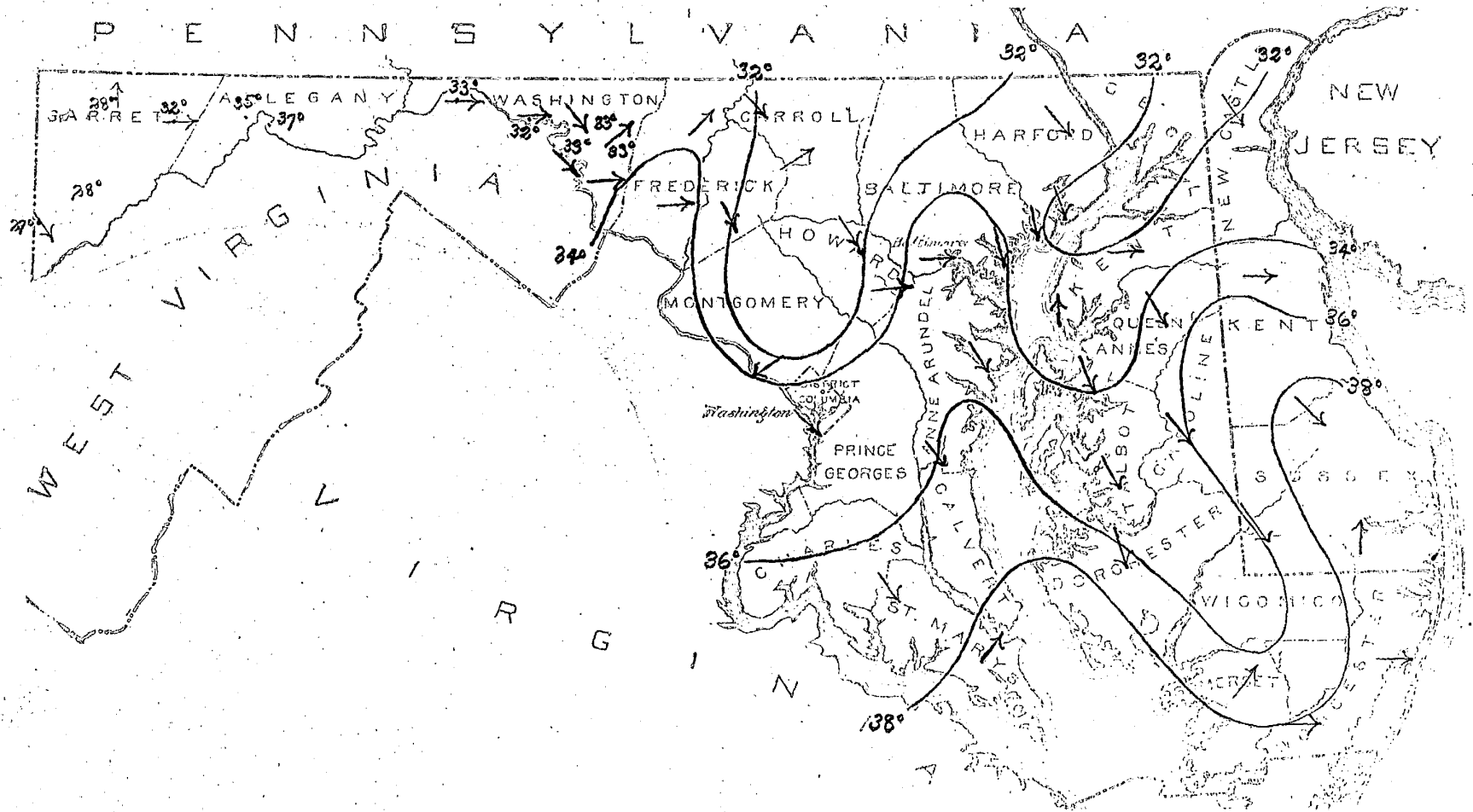
F. J. WALZ,
SECTION DIRECTOR.



BALTIMORE, MD.:
WEATHER BUREAU OFFICE.
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY.

1900.

MONTHLY MEAN ISOTHERMS AND PREVAILING WINDS, JANUARY, 1900.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
CLIMATE AND CROP SERVICE
 OF THE
WEATHER BUREAU.
 CENTRAL OFFICE: WASHINGTON, D. C.

BALTIMORE, MD.

VOL. V.

BALTIMORE, MD.

No. 1.

REORGANIZATION OF WEATHER BUREAU.

Synopsis of Bill introduced in Congress December 12, 1899, by
 Mr. J. W. Wadsworth, Chairman of the
 Committee on Agriculture.

The Chief of the Bureau, under direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, shall have charge of forecasting the weather, issuing of storm warnings, the display of weather and flood signals, the gauging and reporting of rivers, the maintenance and operation of seacoast telegraph lines, the collection and transmission of marine intelligence and all the remaining duties that now appertain to the office.

All future appointments, promotions, reductions, assignments, restorations, and removals in the Bureau, save those in territories separate from the continental area of the United States, must be governed by the following rules:

Candidates for appointment shall be examined by the Civil Service Commission on lines indicated by the Chief of the Weather Bureau.

Vacancies in grades of observer, clerk, and stenographer shall be filled by appointments apportioned among the States and Territories in alphabetical order and Congressional districts in numerical order. In filling vacancies in the grades of messenger, watchmen, artisan, or any mechanical position the alphabetical order of the States shall be reversed. Any person holding the position of messenger, watchman, or mechanic receiving a salary of not more than \$1,000 per year may be transferred or promoted from one position to another and all positions above those for which original appointment is provided shall be filled by promotion from lower grades.

The age limits for appointees are as follows: Observers, clerks, and stenographers, 18 to 30 years; artisans, watchmen, and mechanics, 20 to 35 years; messengers, 15 to 25 years.

Messengers and stenographers may be promoted to be observers after five years. Other employes may also be advanced.

Nominations for appointment are to be made by Senators, Representatives or Delegates.

Successful candidates shall receive probationary appointments for one year.

After one year's satisfactory service no employe receiving more than \$300 may be removed except on proved charges preferred by the Chief of the Bureau of inefficiency, immoral

conduct, conduct prejudicial to the good order and name of the Bureau, or disobedience of orders.

To serve the needs of discipline the employe may be suspended from duty without pay for a period not exceeding 90 days. No employe who has been removed can be reinstated within one year. He is denied reinstatement if he does not apply for same within five years or if he be over 45 years old.

All promotions are to be based solely on merit. A service of two years in one grade is necessary to be eligible for promotion to the next higher one, except in cases of chief officers.

Beginning July 1, 1900, there shall be withheld from all the graded employes 3 per cent. of each month's salary, or as much as the Retirement Board may determine, for the purposes of retirement annuities. The amounts to be paid under this provision are as follows:

For 20 years' service, 30 per cent. of the highest annual pay received during the last five years of employment.

For 25 years' service, 40 per cent.

Employes reaching 60 years of age who have been employed 30 years, 60 per cent.

Employes 65 years old, with 30 years' service (to be compulsorily retired), 75 per cent.

Employes aged 65, but with less than 30 years' service, to receive one-tenth of the 75 per cent, for each year of service.

Employes dying before retirement may designate some one person to receive 75 per cent. of the amounts withheld from his salary.

The Retirement Board shall consist of the Chief and two employes of the Bureau, to be named by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The law is to go into effect July 1, 1900.

A BETTER WEATHER BUREAU.

[Editorial from the Baltimore American of January 24, 1900.]

The bill now pending in Congress for the reorganization and improvement of the Weather Bureau contains a number of features that might well be recommended to the attention of other branches of the public service. Of the changes proposed, the more noticeable are those to regulate the manner of appointments and promotions; and to provide a retiring fund for the support of aged and disabled employes. As heretofore, the Civil Service Commission is to deal with the original appointment, but the subsequent career of the appointee will be determined by an examining board within the Bureau. The functions of the latter are to apportion reward or punishment, and their action will depend entirely upon the record of the employe, as shown by his daily work, and by special examinations held from time to time. These examinations not only test the value of the individual, but also show whether lengthening experience and service have been accompanied by a corresponding progress in the mastery of his profession. Merit, made evident in this way, is to be rewarded, and the avenues of favoritism and a pull are to be closed.

The retirement clause provides for the maintenance of old and faithful employes. The period of each man's usefulness must eventually end, and the Bureau does not propose that

its operations shall be hampered through the retention of its superannuated members. At the same time, it wishes, through legislative sanction, to build up a fund to support its retired employes, such fund to be established by a three per cent. deposit of salaries, without any aid from extraneous sources. The opening section of the bill will give an idea of the scope of its operations, which are probably much broader than generally thought. It says:

"The Chief of the Weather Bureau, under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, shall have charge of the forecasting of weather, the issue of storm warnings, the display of weather and flood signals for the benefit of agriculture, commerce, and navigation, the reporting of temperature and rainfall conditions for the cotton interests, the distribution of frost and cold wave signals, the distribution of meteorological information in the interests of agriculture and commerce, and the taking of such meteorological observations as may be necessary to establish and record the climatic conditions of the United States, or as are essential for the proper execution of the foregoing duties, and the establishing and maintaining of such meteorological stations in foreign countries as Congress annually may provide for."

To improve the work of the Bureau along these several lines is the object of the present bill. The more prominent features are those already noticed, but the other changes advocated are also in the right direction, viz., toward the introduction of strictly business principles in the management of a Government Bureau, and a reward to the employed to be measured by the worth of his services.

If the bill is passed, as it should be, there is no doubt but that it will improve the Weather Bureau, both by elevating its personnel and also by increasing its opportunities for usefulness to the public, which it is intended to serve.

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CLIMATOLOGY OF THE MONTH.

ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE—IN INCHES AND HUNDREDTHS.

Monthly mean at Washington, D. C., 30.11; at Baltimore, 30.10; average, 30.10; highest, 30.59 at Washington, D. C., on the 4th; lowest, 29.35 at Baltimore, on the 20th.

TEMPERATURE—IN DEGREES FAHRENHEIT.

The monthly mean (entire territory), 33.8, is 1.8 above the normal.

The highest monthly mean was 38.8, at Pocomoke City.

The lowest monthly mean was 27.2, at Sunnyside.

The highest temperature recorded during the month was 69, at Cumberland, on the 23d.

The lowest temperature recorded during the month was -8, at Sunnyside, on the 31st and at Deer Park, on the 4th.

The greatest local monthly range was 63, at Sunnyside and Deer Park.

The least local monthly range was 46, at Cambridge.

The greatest daily range was 48, at Deer Park, on the 28th.

The least daily range was 1, at Easton, Millsboro, and Woodstock, on the 29th, at Taneytown, on the 11th, at Frederick, on the 31st.

PRECIPITATION—IN INCHES AND HUNDREDTHS.

The monthly average (entire territory) 2.43, was 0.60 below the normal.

The greatest amount was 3.79, at Seaford, Del.

The least amount was 1.34, at Westernport.

The greatest amount in twenty-four hours was 2.15, at Coleman, on the 11th.

The average number of rainy days, 7.

WIND.

The prevailing direction was from the northwest.

The total movement was 3,932 miles; at Baltimore, and 5,584 miles, at Washington, D. C.

The maximum wind velocity was 38 miles per hour from the northwest, at Washington, D. C., on the 26th.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The following are dates on which miscellaneous phenomena occurred:

Snow.—Bachman's Valley, 1, 12, 14, 27; Baltimore, 1, 14, 28, 29; Boonsboro, 1; Cambridge, 1, 28; Charlotte Hall, 28; Chase, 29; Chewsville, 1; Clear Spring, 14, 31; Coleman, 1, 28; Cumberland, 26; Darlington, 1, 10, 28; Deer Park, 1, 10, 11, 12, 16, 20, 25, 26, 30, 31; Fallston, 1, 12, 14, 17, 28, 29, 31; Frederick, 1; Frostburg, 1, 11, 12, 26, 30, 31; Grantsville, 3, 26; Green Spring Furnace, 1, 30; Hagerstown, 1, 30; Jewell, 12; Laurel, 1, 28; Md. Agricultural College, 12, 25; Millsboro, Del., 12, 31; Mt. St. Mary's, 14; Newark, Del., 1, 14, 28; New Market, 1, 12, 25, 28; Pocomoke City, 28, 31; Princess Anne, 1, 12, 13, 28, 31; Queens-town, 28; Rock Hall, 1, 28; Seaford, Del., 1, 12, 28, 30; Sharpsburg, 1, 12, 14, 25, 30; Smithsburg, 1; Smithsburg, 1, 13, 31; Solomons, 1, 12, 28, 31; St. Charles College, 1, 28, 29; Sudlersville, 28; Sunnyside, 1, 2, 3, 12, 14, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; Takoma Park, 13, 23; Taneytown, 1; Washington, D. C., 1, 12, 28; Western Md. College, 28; Westernport, 25, 26, 30; Woodstock, 1, 14, 28.

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JANUARY WHEAT REPORT.

The cold wave that prevailed at the close of December and the beginning of January was somewhat damaging to wheat, there having been but little protection afforded by snow covering. Alternate freezings and thawings toward the close of the latter month lifted the soil and exposed the roots in many localities. As a whole, however, the weather conditions have been favorable. Most fields present a fresh green color, and on good soil the surface is hidden by a thick and vigorous growth. The Hessian fly has been observed in nearly all districts, and while damage from this source cannot be determined until the coming spring, the view held by correspondents is that it will then be confined, for the most part, to the early sown wheat.

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ERRATA.

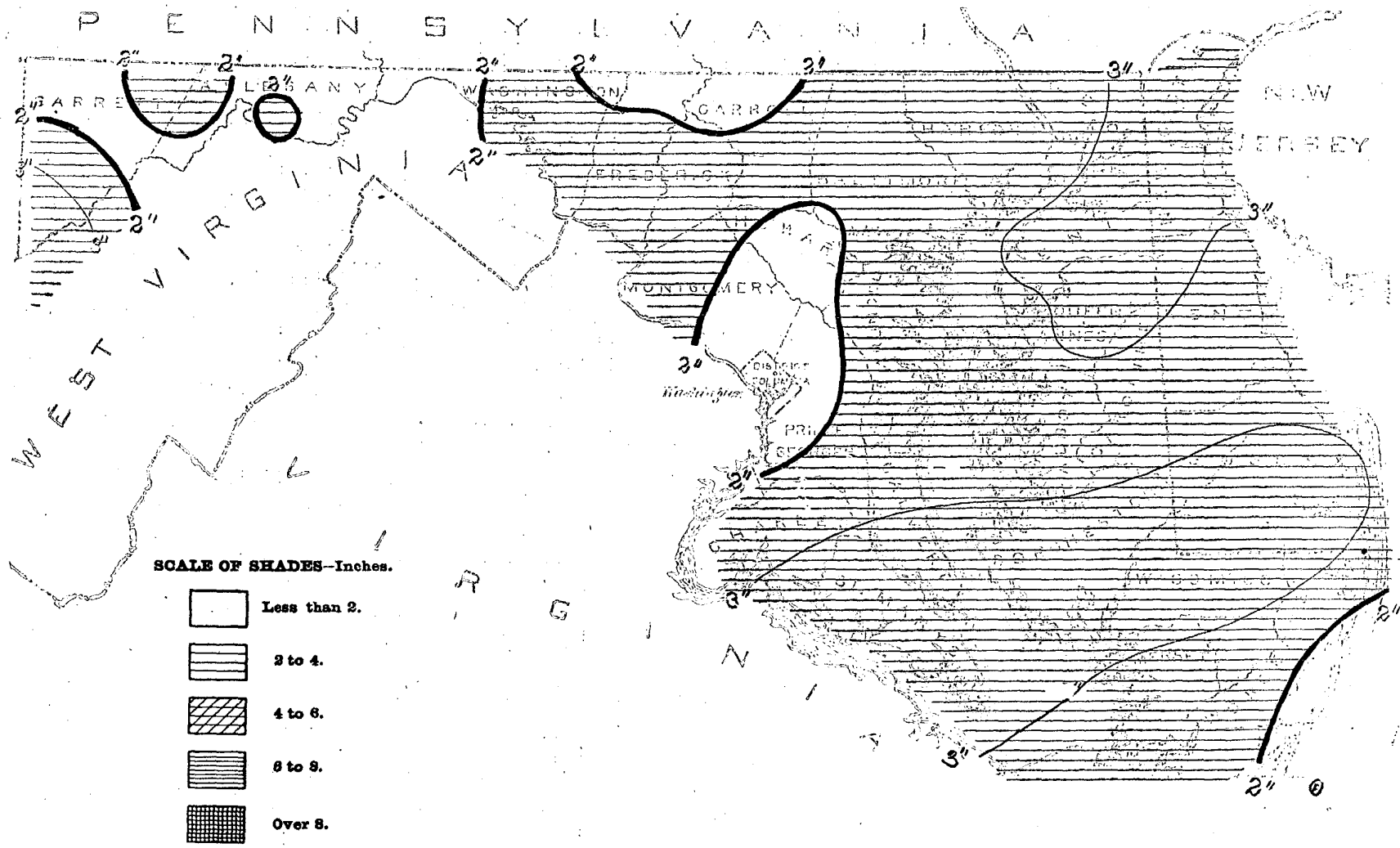
November, 1899, Report: Page 5.—Mean temperature at Annapolis, 47.6°, should read 48.0°; mean temperature at Boettcherville, 44.4°, should read 44.2°; minimum temperature at Cambridge, 32° on the 28th, should read 30° on the 27th. Pages 5 and 6.—Temperature data for Milford, Del., of doubtful value. Pages 5 and 8.—Page 5, total precipitation at Harney, 1.21, should read 1.47; page 8, precipitation at Harney on the 23d, blank, should read .26. The precipitation record for Clear Spring is incomplete.

December, 1899, Report: Page 5.—Mean temperature at Fallston, 34.6°, should read 34.9°; total snowfall at Westernport, 2.5, should read 2.6. Pages 5 and 8.—Total precipitation at Westernport, 1.72, should read 1.73; page 8.—Total precipitation at Cambridge, 1.70, should read 1.73; record at Cambridge on the 24th, blank, should read T; record at Cambridge on the 27th, blank, should read .03; total precipitation at Sandy Point, 1.10, should read 1.30; record at Sandy Point on the 27th, blank, should read .20. Page 6.—Mean minimum temperature at Fallston, 27.1°, should read 27.7°.

Maximum and minimum temperatures for Maryland and Delaware, January, 1900.

Table with 32 columns representing days of the month and 2 rows per day (Max, Min). Rows list various stations including Annapolis, Baltimore, Boonsboro, etc. The final two columns are labeled 'Monthly mean' with 'Max.' and 'Min.' sub-headers.

TOTAL PRECIPITATION, JANUARY, 1900.



TOTAL PRECIPITATION, JANUARY, 1900.

