



AFTER THE BIG WIND

Heavy loss was suffered by summer residents and fisher folk in the path of the tropical hurricane which departed from usual paths to hit long Island and New England. An official photograph of the American Red Cross.

been only four hurricanes detected in Caribbean and Gulf waters, and only two of these have been really severe—the one of Sept. 21, and one a few weeks back that struck the Mexican coast near Tampico and did not figure much in American news, although it did a great deal of damage to Mexican shipping and shore works.

The greatest hurricane season of all Weather Bureau history was that of 1933: with a total count of 21.

New England farmers face a winter of shortage and hardship as a conse-

quence of the hurricane, a survey by the U. S. Weather Bureau disclosed.

Laconically, it tells of disaster: "New England: All states, except Maine, ravaged by hurricane which ruined crops; little left for harvest. Greatly excessive rains in Connecticut and Merrimac valleys, and tributaries and streams in north-west Vermont seriously flooded towns, eroded farm lands, and washed out rails and highways. Potato digging in Aroostook County delayed; too wet."

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FORESTRY

Grave Forest Fire Menace Faces New England

Hurricane Tore Down Several Billion Feet of Timber Which Now Is Piled Ready to Catch Fire or Pests

FORESTRY scientists are mobilizing government aid in an attack on the gravest forest fire menace in New England history.

Several billion board feet of timber were downed in New England by the recent hurricane, and today are piled like jackstraws into a giant tinderbox. Now October dry winds are at hand to usher

in the usual autumn forest fire season.

The Connecticut valley may get its first taste of the dangerous "crown fires" of the great western timberlands, unless immediate steps are taken to clear the fallen trees, declares Ward Shepard, director of the Harvard Forest.

Mr. Shepard has been appointed chairman of an emergency state forest fire

committee, created to coordinate federal, state, and city agencies.

Further danger threatens in an invasion of insect pests, infesting the dead trees, and later spreading to those still standing. This can be expected unless the fallen timber is cared for, Mr. Shepard said.

A principal purpose of the committee will be to help devise means of salvaging as much of the timber as possible for lumber. The total timber loss has been roughly estimated to be \$40,000,000. A major economic problem will be to help owners store the lumber and slowly dispose of it without flooding the market.

Typical losses were suffered by the Harvard University experimental forest of 2,100 acres, located at Petersham, Mass., near the central path of the hurricane. Out of a stand of about 10,000,000 board feet, half was blown down.

About 1,500 trees were downed at the Harvard Arnold Arboretum, near Boston, which contains thousands of trees and shrubs representing altogether about 7,000 different species suited to the New England climate, and gathered from all parts of the world. Because of extensive duplication, however, very few species were lost.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

War Research Saps World's Inquiring Brain Power

PPOTENTIAL war absorbs too much of the world's inquiring brain power to please those who desire more expenditures for making the world a better place in which to live. A recent estimate is that of all the money spent in research in the United States and Great Britain, one-fourth goes for military research. The percentage must be even larger in a nation like Germany.

Half of the research money is credited to industrial research and related pure research in physics and chemistry. Even some of this is a military expenditure in the last analysis. Most of the remaining fourth is devoted to agriculture and its supporting sciences. Social and humanistic sciences receive "such an infinitesimal part of the total as to be scarcely discernible!"

In Great Britain where an articulate group of scientists deplore and expose the "frustration of science," government estimates for 1938-9 show the ratio of 5 to 1 in favor of research funds for military purposes. Admiralty and air ministry research grants total \$22,900,-