

2095

Britain's big freeze-ap-

Jan 29th. '54.

As the days lengthen, the cold strengthens- and 1954 proves the truth of this old ~~maxima~~ adage, as icy gales from Siberia sweep across Britain.

In Scotland, snow- (whipped up into ~~maxima~~ ten-foot drifts), soon blocked many country roads. Break-down wagons and snow-ploughs were quickly in action, though the freezing surface added to their difficulties.

South of the Border, too, the forces of General Winter chased away the hopes of an early spring, and scarcely a county escaped the ice and snow. / cue

Seasonal battles raged thick and fast, while other winter sport enthusiasts ~~some~~ found a spot for their favourite pastime. Even the sunny South Coast did not escape, and Nelson's famous flagship "Victory" at Portsmouth, was shrouded in the deepest white mantle for years. ~~was~~ Forlorn pleasure boats on the beach were filled with a most unwelcome visitor.

Sport, too, suffered from the icy conditions. To try and keep the ground soft at Twickenham for the hard International Rugby battle between England and the "All Blacks", they covered the ground with seventeen tons of straw.

Red-nosed Londoners, making their way through Trafalgar Square, ~~was~~ surprised ^{found} to see the fountains draped in a ~~special~~ winter frieze.

It was ~~maxima~~ a hard world ~~text~~ for the pigeons, but plentiful tit-bits made their life (like the ice)- just bearable.

And at this late, the residents of St James's Park will soon be jay-walking in Piccadilly.

^{Yes,} ~~though~~ the feathered colony found their ^{"ice-legs"} ~~see~~ legs anything but firm, in the first cold snap ~~maxima~~ of the winter.