

Chinese Pray; Rain Comes

TAIPEI (Formosa), April 3.—
(AP)—Formosa has been in the grip of a drought almost without parallel.

Crops were seared. Water was so low that the Nationalist island's hydroelectric output was cut. Power was rationed.

Farmers watching their crops slowing dying prayed for rain.

Yesterday, the magistrate of Hsinchu, near Taipei, led a procession of 3,000 Chinese in a march to the sea.

They carried their idols. They were marching to invoke the benevolence of the gods.

As they were marching, dark clouds gathered. Heavy rain began to fall. The marchers knelt in the downpour and gave thanks.

Nationalist officials estimated the rains would save crops with a potential yield of 150,000 tons of rice.

There was one dark spot. The great storm that brought rain to parched Formosa also brought violent winds to the nearby Pescadores.

Press reports from the island said 12 fishing boats and 9 dwellings were destroyed, 10 boats were missing, and 20 boats and 70 houses were damaged.