

## MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS.

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## MARCH, 1927: MILD AND UNSETTLED: WET IN ENGLAND AND WALES AND IN IRELAND.

**General.**—March on the whole was mild with a brief warm spell about the 19th; during the first week and the last ten days very unsettled weather with frequent rain prevailed generally.

The mild unsettled weather which characterised the latter half of February, 1927, continued during the first week of March. On the 2nd and 3rd gales were experienced on several parts of the coasts, notably along the English Channel and Irish Sea, and there was heavy rain at times, e.g., 39mm. (1.52 in.) fell at Delamere, Cheshire, on the 1st, and 22mm. (0.87 in.) at Lympe on the 10th. Hail occurred frequently, while snow was reported from a few northern stations. Thunderstorms occurred in many parts of southern England on the 10th. Subsequently an anti-cyclone passed across Ireland and Scotland to Scandinavia giving north-easterly to easterly winds over England and Ireland, and colder weather generally. Slight snow fell at Harrogate. The lowest minimum temperatures of the month were experienced at this period, 18°F. in the screen at Balmoral on the 13th, and 14°F. on the ground at Birr Castle on the 13th, and at Rhayader on the 15th.

Meanwhile, further depressions approaching from the Atlantic caused a renewal of rough rainy weather in the extreme west, while the withdrawal of the anticyclone southwards across Germany was associated with more southerly winds over Great Britain and higher temperatures. Maximum readings rose above 50°F. again on the 16th and reached or exceeded 60°F. in most parts on the 19th to 21st.

On the 22nd, cyclonic conditions spread from the west to the eastern counties and an unsettled type of weather prevailed until the end of the month with further high winds and gales at times, frequent rain, local thunderstorms and hail, but some good sunshine records, e.g., 11.7 hours at Tiree on the 28th and 11.0 hours at Falmouth on the 30th. Strong gales were experienced in southwest England and Ireland on the 30th and 31st.

The following remarks taken from observers' notes illustrate the character of the month:—Southport—No certainly warmer March in the 55 previous years' local record. Winds from N.W. to E. unusually infrequent, the aggregate hours of duration of these winds being much less than half the normal. Huddersfield (Oakes)—A mild but wet month; very good weather from the 14th to the 22nd. Copdock—Except for the brief spell from the 16th to the 21st inclusive during which there were four sunny days, on three of which the temperatures rose to 60°F. or above, March, 1927, was mild and wet and on the whole a singularly unpleasant month. The outstanding feature of the month was the thunderstorms which occurred on the 26th, 27th and 28th. Redruth—Warmest March since observations began in 1901. Dublin—A mild month of generally unsettled weather, frequent rainfall and a prevalence of winds from westerly points. An exceptionally warm spell for the time of year lasted from the forenoon of the 18th to the night of the 22nd.

**Pressure and Winds.**—The mean pressure for the month was below the normal at all stations; the highest recorded pressure at a fixed hour was 1032 mb. at Guernsey on the 19th and at Dungeness on the 20th, and the lowest, 966 mb. at Blacksod Point, Malin Head, Aldergrove and Birr Castle on the 25th. The prevailing winds were southwesterly. High winds reaching gale force locally occurred widely during the period 2nd to the 5th and around about the 25th and in the southern districts of England and Ireland on the 30th and 31st. During the gale on the 31st the wind at St. Mary's (Scilly) in the late evening attained a mean hourly velocity of 68 mi/hr. and a velocity of 85 mi/hr. in a gust. Other notable wind velocities attained in gusts were 77 mi/hr. at St. Mary's (Scilly) and 73 mi/hr. at Pendennis Castle (near Falmouth) on the 25th and 72 mi/hr. at Southport on the 2nd.

**Temperature.**—A notable feature of the month was its mildness. For the third consecutive month, the mean temperature for the month was above the normal in all Districts, the greatest excess, 4.5°F. occurring in England E. (mean temperature 45.6°F.) and the smallest excess, 2.4°F., in the Channel Isles (mean temperature 47.7°F.). In Scotland the month on the whole was the mildest March since 1893.

During a short period of anticyclonic weather and north-easterly to easterly winds from the 12th to the 15th, colder weather prevailed; at most places the day maximum temperature on the 14th failed to reach 45°F., and at Leafeld did not rise above 38°F. By the 18th, temperature had recovered, and during the next few days, which were the warmest days of the month, day temperatures were well above the normal for the time of year. The observer at Hampstead reports that at that station the 21st, on which the temperature reached 67°F., was the warmest March day since 1923.

There were frequent occurrences of ground frost in all Districts, particularly from about the 7th to the 17th and round about the 27th.

The extreme temperatures for the month were:—(England and Wales) 68°F. at Cambridge, Raunds, London (Greenwich and Camden Square) and Aber (Bangor) on the 21st; 24°F. at Garforth on the 17th and at Porton on the 11th; (Scotland) 65°F. at Smeaton on the 21st, 18°F. at Balmoral on the 13th; (Ireland) 62°F. at Dublin (Glasnevin) on the 19th, 25°F. at Birr Castle on the 13th.

**Precipitation.**—March 1927, was wet in England and Wales and in Ireland. The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal for the period 1881-1915 was 125; the values for the several countries were:—England and Wales 135, Scotland 93, Ireland 138.

In some districts in the north-east of England monthly totals were below the normal, but elsewhere they were well above the normal, the excess being most marked in the western and southern districts.

In Scotland monthly totals were decidedly below the normal in most northern districts but in parts of the western districts and Perthshire they exceeded the normal; in south Ayrshire the excess was considerable. In the eastern districts little rain fell during the period 10th to the 22nd, but in the western districts rain was general on the 15th, heavy from the 18th to the 20th and frequent until the 30th. In nearly all districts the period 22nd to 27th was wet, with some fairly heavy falls on the 22nd, 25th and 27th.

Except in some northern districts monthly totals were well above the normal in Ireland amounting to more than twice the normal in parts of Wicklow and Wexford.

Thunderstorms accompanied in many instances by hail occurred in the south-eastern parts of England on the 10th and in various parts of the British Isles during the last week of the month. The observer at Copdock reported that the lightning associated with a thunderstorm on the 28th was exceptionally vivid and frequent between 6.30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Snow and "snow-lying" were reported on a few days at some stations.

**Sunshine.**—The mean daily duration of sunshine differed only slightly from the normal in most Districts. The largest excess, 0.36 hrs. occurred in Scotland N. (mean daily duration 3.41 hrs.) and the largest deficiency, 0.33 hrs. in England N.E. (mean daily duration 3.54 hrs.). The sunniest week in general was the week ending March 12th, between 9 hrs. and 11 hrs. sunshine being recorded at several stations between the 10th and 12th. Good records were also obtained on the 17th notably in the eastern counties of England, in several districts on the 27th, 28th, 30th and in the east of Scotland on the 31st.

**Fog.**—In contrast to February 1927, little fog was reported during the month. Fog occurred in the northern districts of England on the 7th, in south-eastern England on the 10th, 11th and 20th and widely on the 18th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—Halos of 22° were observed on several occasions during the month. Aurora was observed at Aberdeen and Cockle Park on the 6th, at Baltasound on the 6th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 27th, 28th, 30th and 31st, at Deerness on the 22nd, at Gordon Castle on the 17th and 26th, at Lerwick Observatory on the 11th, at Stornoway on the 12th and at Wick on the 4th, 9th, 27th and 31st. "Auroral glows" were observed at Lerwick Observatory on the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 9th, 22nd, 27th and 28th. The Zodiacal Light was seen at Oxford on the 2nd, 4th, 23rd and 26th, and at Ross-on-Wye on the 27th.