

SUMMARY of the OBSERVATIONS made at the STATIONS included in the DAILY and WEEKLY WEATHER REPORTS, for the CALENDAR MONTH,

FEBRUARY 1890.

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General Summary.—The weather of February was quiet, cold, and very dry. Pressure was largely in excess of the average, especially in the northern parts of the kingdom. Temperature was below the normal, the deficiency of heat being more noticeable in the daytime than at night. The winds were principally from the Eastward, and seldom of any great strength; no severe gales were experienced. Rainfall was much less than the average. Snow was rare, the only fall of any note being that of the 15th, when the greater part of England was affected. Bright Sunshine varied greatly in amount in different localities.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month at 8 a.m.* ranged from about 30·25 ins. on the north-east coasts of Great Britain to about 30·15 ins. in the Hebrides and the extreme west of Ireland, to about 30·13 ins. at Valencia, and to about 30·10 ins. in the Scilly Islands. The distribution was therefore of a very abnormal character, the mean gradient was very slight. The values were everywhere in excess of the average,* the difference ranging from about two tenths of an inch in the extreme south of England to more than three-tenths of an inch in the north of Ireland, and to as much as four-tenths and upwards in the northern parts of Great Britain. *Highest* values were recorded on the 23rd, when the barometer ranged from about 30·60 ins. in the north of Scotland and the south of England to 30·70 ins. or more over all the more central parts of the United Kingdom. *Lowest values* were recorded on the 2nd in the extreme north, but at varying times between the 12th and 16th in other parts of the country, the actual minima varying in each case between 29·3 ins. and 29·5 ins. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions.—The depressions which visited our Islands were rare and unimportant, the only systems worthy of note being—1. A well-defined, though not deep, disturbance which advanced from the Bay of Biscay to the east of England between the 14th and 15th, and which subsequently dispersed off our north-east coasts; and 2. A depression of somewhat greater energy which advanced towards our extreme south-west coasts on the 16th. The latter disturbance was originally of a threatening character, but its advance eastwards was suddenly checked, and it ultimately filled up over the Bay of Biscay. In the course of the period numerous large depressions travelled eastwards across the extreme north of Scandinavia to northern Russia.

Anticyclones were numerous and persistent. With the exception of a few days about the middle of month there was, in fact, no time at which anticyclonic conditions were not prevalent over a considerable portion of the kingdom.

Wind.—Over Ireland and England there was a large preponderance of winds from some Easterly point, but in the north and east of Scotland greater variability was shown, and at Stornoway and Aberdeen breezes from the Southward and South-westward were of frequent occurrence. Gales were somewhat numerous on our north and north-east coasts; at Wick there were 10 days on which gales were reported, at Aberdeen 9, and at Spurn Head 7. In the west and south, however, they were for the most part very rare; at Roches Point there were only 2, at Hurst Castle and Dungeness 1, and at Belmullet, Liverpool, Holyhead, Donaghadee none at all.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from 45° in the Scilly Islands to a little below 40° over central Ireland, and to a little below 38° over the south of Scotland and the east of England, as well as in isolated parts of our western and northern counties. The mean values were below the average,* excepting in the north of Scotland, where a slight excess was shown; the deficit was greatest (two degrees or more) over the southern parts of the kingdom. *Highest* readings were recorded at varying times; over England they occurred mainly on the 1st, 18th, and 25th, over Ireland on the 22nd, and over Scotland on the 23rd. *Lowest* readings were also registered on irregular dates, but at the English stations they occurred chiefly on the 28th. *Vapour Tension* varied from 0·20 in. or less over central Ireland, the east of Scotland, and the greater part of England, to 0·24 in. in the Hebrides and 0·26 in. in the Scilly Islands. *Relative Humidity* ranged from about 85 per cent. over the east of Scotland, the south of Ireland, and the eastern parts of the English Channel, to about 95 per cent. in the west of Scotland and at Pembroke.

Rainfall was very deficient, an aggregate of less than an inch being reported from a large majority of our stations; at Nairn, Manchester, and Markree there was less than half an inch. The values were everywhere much less than the average*; at Stornoway, Laudale, and Mullaghmore the amount was not more than one fifth of the normal quantity. The largest falls occurred, as a rule, between the 14th and 16th.

Bright Sunshine.—A fair amount was recorded in the extreme south, Valencia having 40, Plymouth and Hastings 41, and Jersey 44 per cent. of the possible duration. In other parts the weather was less sunny, the lowest per-centage of all being 11 at Glasgow, 16 in London, and 17 at York and Bawtry.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure* and *Temperature* for the 20 years, 1861–80; *Rainfall* for the 20 years, 1866–85.