

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

## FEBRUARY 1900.

(Issued as a Supplement to the Weekly Weather Report, 1900.)

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PUBLISHED BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER ST.  
EDINBURGH, and 90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; AND HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

**General Summary.**—The weather of February was very cold and unsettled, with frequent, and in many cases heavy, falls of snow or rain. Thunder and lightning occurred at some of our south-western stations on the 16th, and in many parts of Ireland between the 19th and 21st. Pressure and temperature were both very low; the winds, though rather variable, were chiefly from the North-eastward in the west, and from the Westward or South-westward in the east; rainfall was in excess of the average in all districts excepting the west of Scotland, the amount being very large over England; bright sunshine was rather deficient in the east and south, but exceeded the normal in the west and north.

**Pressure.**—*Mean at 8 a.m.* was extremely uniform, the values ranging from 29·60 ins. at Jersey and 29·55 ins. and upwards over the central and southern parts of England generally to 29·50 ins. and less in the west of Scotland and the north of Ireland. These readings were considerably below the average,\* the deficit ranging from between 0·40 in. and 0·45 in. over England to 0·30 in. in the north of Scotland, and to 0·25 in. or rather less in the Shetlands. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 28th, when the barometer rose to 30·3 ins. and upwards in the north of Scotland, and to 30·0 ins. and upwards on all but our extreme southern coasts. *Lowest* readings occurred on the 19th, when the mercury fell to 28·2 ins. at Shields, to 28·3 ins. and less over the north of England generally, and to 28·7 ins. and less in all localities excepting the extreme north of Scotland. *Range* was large over the more central parts of the kingdom, but moderate in the north and also in the south.

**Depressions.**—These were very numerous, and in many instances their centres advanced north-eastwards directly across the United Kingdom. The most important disturbances were apparently those of the 15th and the 19th. In the former case the centre of the depression moved in a north-north-easterly direction across Ireland and the west of Scotland, its progress being marked by fresh Southerly gales and heavy rains in our southern districts, and by severe South-easterly gales and destructive snowstorms over all the northern parts of Great Britain. In the latter case the leading feature was the extremely low level to which the barometer sank, as shown by the readings quoted in the foregoing paragraph.

**Anticyclones.**—The only anticyclones observed in the immediate neighbourhood of our islands were (1) a system of very slight intensity which drifted eastwards across the country on the 8th; and (2) a more pronounced area which spread over our northern districts on the 28th. The European weather charts show that for the greater portion of the month two high pressure systems existed, one over central and northern Russia, and the other over or to the south-westward of the Spanish peninsula.

**Winds** varied considerably in direction from time to time. On our eastern coasts they were chiefly from the Westward or South-westward, but in the west the North-easterly current seems to have been the most prevalent. The gales experienced were fairly numerous but were as a rule of little severity, an important exception being, however, the South-easterly gale of the 15th, which blew with great violence over the northern parts of Great Britain and the North Sea.

**Temperature.**—*Mean at sea level* ranged from about 44° in the Scilly and Channel Islands, and from 41° and upwards on the south-west coasts of Great Britain generally to 35° or less over central Ireland, to 33° or less over northern and central Scotland, and to a little below 31° at Lairg and Braemar. The general distribution over our islands agreed very fairly with the normal, but in Ireland and Scotland the winter type was unusually well marked. The mean values were in all cases below the average,\* the deficit being small in the east and south of England, but large elsewhere, and especially so in Ireland and Scotland. At some of the central stations in those countries the deficit amounted to at least 6°, and at Killarney and Braemar to more than 7°. *Highest* readings occurred in most places between the 23rd and 25th, when the thermometer exceeded 55° in many parts of England and Ireland, and reached 60° at Geldeston; at some stations in the north of Scotland the thermometer did not reach 50°. *Lowest* readings were recorded on dates ranging between the 8th and 13th, when hard frost prevailed over nearly the whole kingdom. At a large number of the inland stations in England and Ireland the sheltered thermometer fell below 15°, and in Scotland below 10°, the lowest readings of all being -3° at Braemar, 1° at Lairg, and 5° at Fort Augustus. *Range* was large, especially in the north; at Braemar it amounted to 49°, and at Lairg to 53°. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·25 in. at Scilly and 0·20 in. and more on several parts of our western and southern coasts to 0·16 in. and less over central Ireland and the east of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* ranged from 97 per cent. at Donaghadee and 95 per cent. at Spurn Head to 80 per cent. at Valencia and 82 per cent. at Jersey.

**Rainfall** was in excess of the average\* in all districts excepting the western and central parts of Scotland, where there was a large deficiency. In Ireland the excess was as a rule somewhat slight, but over England it was very considerable, the total amount being in many places more than twice as much as the normal. The largest aggregates reported were 7·5 ins. at Arlington, 7·0 ins. at Falmouth, and 6·8 ins. at Clifton; the smallest being 1·1 in. at Nairn, 1·7 in. at Fort Augustus, and 1·8 in. at Lairg. Snow was very frequent, the heaviest falls occurring (1) in the south and east of England on the 2nd; (2) in Ireland and Scotland on the 8th and 9th, and over the whole of England and Ireland on the 10th; (3) over the southern parts of the Kingdom generally on the 13th; and (4) over all the more northern parts of Great Britain on the 15th.

**Bright Sunshine** amounted to less than the average\* at many of the eastern and southern stations, but was in excess of the normal in the west and north. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from 39 at Aberdovey and 38 at Valencia to 16 at Birmingham and Manchester, and to 15 in London.

\* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 25 years, 1871-95; *Rainfall* for the 30 years, 1866-95; and *Bright Sunshine* for the 15 years, 1881-95.