

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

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

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JULY, 1925: MAINLY FAIR, WARM AND THUNDERY.

General.—The first three weeks of July were characterised by mainly fair warm weather, the last week being marked by a cooler type of unsettled weather. The rainfall during the first half of the month was well below normal except in some parts of Scotland and Ireland, but heavy falls, in many cases associated with thunderstorms, brought the monthly totals above normal in the southern districts of England, and in the greater part of Ireland and in parts of Scotland.

During the first two days of the month, mainly fair to fine weather was experienced over the British Isles, and at several inland stations on the 2nd the temperature reached 80°F. Small amounts of rain fell generally, and in Ireland, Wales and the south of England thunderstorms occurred. At Birr, 30mm. fell during a thunderstorm in the afternoon of the 2nd. Under the influence of a depression over Northern France (Track F), cloudy to overcast conditions, accompanied by slight rain or drizzle, prevailed in the south of England where temperature was lower; in the north, and later in the west of the British Isles, fairer conditions obtained. Associated with the passage of a depression across Scotland on the 6th (Track D), heavy rain fell in England and Scotland; at Petersfield 15mm. fell in 3 hours on the morning of the 6th. During the next few days cloudy to overcast weather prevailed with slight rain and temperature below normal for the time of year. After the 10th the anticyclone off Ireland began to spread across England; conditions became less cloudy, and for the next few days mainly fair weather prevailed in all districts; temperature rose above 80°F. in many instances, and sunshine records exceeded 14 hrs. at some stations in the south-eastern counties. In the north and west, however, conditions began to be affected by depressions which spread gradually southwards, until by the 17th a depression was centred over north-west Ireland, causing rain in many parts. Heavy falls were reported locally; Blacksod Point registered 21mm. and Castlebay 14mm. Winds were strong to high at times, a gust of 47 m.p.h. being recorded at Holyhead on the morning of the 18th. During the next few days further rain in Ireland and the western districts of England and Wales marked the passage southward of this depression, which by the 21st was centred over the Bay of Biscay (Track C). Temperature was again above 80°F., and thunderstorms of considerable intensity occurred in many parts. On the 22nd severe thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rain passed over the southern and midland districts in the early morning and again in the evening; 47mm. (1.85 in.) were measured at Hampstead and 50mm. (1.97 in.) at Shennington Rectory, Oxfordshire. The highest temperatures since the beginning of the year were recorded on this date notably 92°F. at Hunstanton and 91°F. at Lincoln, Eye (Peterboro') and Raunds. On the 25th a depression centred to the north-west of the Hebrides moved southwards over Great Britain, and on the 27th was centred over the southern part of the North Sea, gales occurring in the channel; secondaries to this depression maintained unsettled weather over the British Isles, thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rain occurring locally.

The general character of the month is illustrated by the following remarks taken from observers' notes:—Lerwick,—A very fine month. Rainfall below normal. Two days with a temperature of 70°F. and a greater amount of sunshine than last year. Southport,—A calm and warm but not very sunny month, with large daily and monthly ranges of temperature. Very little rain until the last week. An unusual frequency, for July, of easterly winds produced several hot days. Teignmouth,—Normal conditions throughout. The barometer pressure was high for the first 17 days with mainly fair weather. Changeable weather from the 20th till the end of the month, considerable rainfall and thundery conditions. Huddersfield,—Warm and fairly dry. Rather frequent thunderstorms. Hodsock,—A very warm month and except for the heavy thunderstorms on the 13th a rather dry one. Ipswich,—The rainfall is above the average, sunshine is practically identical with it. The drought of June persisted through the greater part of the month, but the weather went to pieces on the 23rd. Torquay,—The warm sunny weather which prevailed throughout the whole of June continued well into the month, when conditions began to deteriorate, and remained more or less unsettled till the end. Whilst the mean temperatures were only slightly above the normal, sunshine was below the normal. Dublin,—A warm and pleasant month but not so settled as June.

Pressure and Winds.—A notable feature of this month's track chart was the frequent change of direction, shown as closed or open loops, occurring in the paths of the main depressions which passed over or

in the vicinity of the British Isles (Tracks A, C and F). These depressions moved comparatively slowly and influenced the weather of the British Isles during the greater part of the month. The pressure distribution differed markedly from the normal distribution over Great Britain, where, instead of the usual westerly drift, winds were light to moderate and variable in direction. Except at a few stations in the north of Scotland, the mean pressure was everywhere below normal; the deviations from normal at fixed hours varied from +0.9mb. at Lerwick to -2.4mb. at Oxford.

Associated with the depression situated off the north-west of Ireland on the morning of the 18th, strong to high winds were experienced at many stations in Ireland and the western districts of England and Wales. Strong to high westerly winds over the southern half of the British Isles with gales in the Channel were associated with the depression situated over the midland counties on the morning of the 27th.

Temperature.—The mean temperature in Districts 1-10 was 60.4°F. That of every District was above normal, the largest excess 3.0°F. occurring in Scotland N. (mean temperature 57.7°F.) and the smallest 0.3°F. in Ireland N. and the Channel Isles (mean temperatures 57.5°F. and 61.3°F.).

The two warmest periods of the month occurred between the 11th and 14th and between the 21st and 25th. Over the greater part of England and Wales the 22nd was the warmest day. A maximum temperature of 92°F., the highest experienced since the beginning of the year, was recorded at Hunstanton on the 22nd, while at several stations in the eastern and midland counties of England temperature reached 90°F. on the same date. The extreme temperatures for the month were:—(England and Wales) 92°F. at Hunstanton on the 22nd, 37°F. at Chopwellwood on the 1st and 25th. (Scotland) 85°F. at Ardtornish on the 22nd and at Ruthwell on the 23rd, 35°F. at Wolfelee on the 27th. (Ireland) 79°F. at Lisburn on the 12th and 23rd and at Waterford on the 24th, 41°F. at Markree on the 1st and 31st.

Precipitation.—In southern England and in some of the midland counties, the rainfall was above normal; in parts of Kent and Sussex it amounted to twice the normal. Elsewhere, it was below normal, less than half the normal amount occurring in some of the eastern counties, and in the Lake District and parts of the West Riding of Yorkshire. Over most of Scotland, rainfall aggregates were appreciably below the normal, and in many the month was the driest July since 1919; but in places in the west, north and north-east there was a moderate excess. In Ireland, the rainfall totals were above normal except in the south-eastern counties and parts of Donegal and Down. The rainfall associated with the thunderstorm of July 2nd ended the drought which had lasted over 30 days in some south-western districts. The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal was 102; the values for the several countries were:—England and Wales 110, Scotland 80, Ireland 111.

Thunderstorms occurred on various days. During the severe thunderstorms of the 22nd, extensive damage was done by hailstones in the Woolwich and Plumstead districts of London. Some of the hailstones were reported to have been as large as a man's fist and to have weighed 8 ozs. At Fulbeck (north of Worksop) there was a cloud-burst which laid the corn in one field absolutely flat. Several houses in this district were struck by lightning and some structural damage was done. In Scotland the thunderstorm of the 25th was of great intensity in some districts.

Sunshine.—The mean daily duration of sunshine was above normal in Scotland and England N.E. and N.W., and below normal elsewhere, the greatest deficiency occurring in Ireland, particularly in the extreme south-west. The largest amounts of sunshine were recorded generally at the beginning of the month and during the warm periods.

Fog.—Fog was experienced in the east and north-east coasts of England on the morning of the 3rd and extended for some distance inland. In the western districts of the British Isles dense fog occurred on the 12th, and was experienced at many coastal stations between the 12th and 14th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos of 22° were of frequent occurrence. A parhelion was observed at Edinburgh on July 26th. The Zodiacal Light was seen at Deal on the 25th. Two waterspouts were observed in the evening of July 26th at Port St. Mary, Isle of Man.