

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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September, 1950 - Exceptionally wet.

The weather of the month was characterized by excessive rainfall, particularly in Northern Ireland, Scotland and the western districts of England and Wales. It was very unsettled, with fairly frequent gales at exposed places, and sunshine was appreciably below the average on the whole.

During the first five days small secondary depressions or troughs of low pressure moved over the British Isles. Rain fell in most areas, being rather heavy at times in the west and north. It was generally sunny, however, on the 2nd and at most places also on the 5th. On the 6th a depression westward of Ireland moved rapidly north-east across Scotland and deepened causing widespread gales, severe locally, and heavy rain on the 6th, while on the 7th gales were recorded in the north of Scotland and showers occurred, chiefly in the north-west and extreme north. Records of bright sunshine were good generally, however, on the 7th. Again, on the 8th and 9th, a small secondary depression south-westward of Ireland moved east-north-east across England and was followed by another, which moved north-east to southern Scotland and thence east to Denmark. Heavy rain occurred in southern England on the 8th and in Northern Ireland and parts of Scotland on the 10th and 11th.

A spell of very unsettled weather set in on the 13th, when a secondary depression south-westward of Ireland moved north-north-east and deepened, subsequently turning north-east. Gales were registered at exposed stations in the west on the 13th and in the north of Scotland on the 14th, while rain fell generally on the 13th and showers, with local thunderstorms in the west, on the 14th. From the 15th to the 18th an intense depression moved north-east from mid-Atlantic to the south-west of Scotland and thence irregularly north-north-east to the west of Norway. Widespread, severe gales occurred in the British Isles on the 16th and 17th, and heavy rainfall was registered in the west. On the 19th a small depression off the mouth of the English Channel moved east, while another depression approached north-west Scotland and later moved very slowly across Scotland; rain fell generally on the 19th and there were showers and local thunderstorms on the 20th and 21st. On the 23rd a complex depression approached our north-west coasts from the Atlantic and subsequently moved across the country. Very heavy rainfall occurred in some parts, while thunderstorms were recorded in east Britain on the 24th and 25th. A ridge of high pressure moving east over the British Isles on the 26th was associated with a mainly fair day in England and Wales, but further rain occurred later in Scotland and Ireland. On the 29th a depression developed south-westward of Ireland and moved east and later turned north-north-east; rain fell again in most parts of the British Isles and was heavy locally on the 30th.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average generally, the deficiency being greatest in the north; at 9h. the deviation from the average ranged from -13.5 mb. at Lerwick to -3.9 mb. at Scilly. The pressure gradient was thus considerably increased above the average, and gales occurred frequently at exposed stations, the most widespread and severe being those of the 6th, 16th and 17th. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 70 at Spurn Head on the 6th and 70 at Holyhead and 78 at St. Ann's Head on the 17th (see Table II). The prevailing winds were from between south and west.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was somewhat below the average for the period 1906-35, the deviation from the average over the country as a whole being -0.5°F . A cool spell occurred from

about the 16th to the 27th; low night minima were recorded locally on the 9th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 27th. Rather warm days occurred at times during the first two weeks, particularly on the 4th.

Extreme temperatures in the screen included:—(England and Wales) 76°F . at Lowestoft, Finningley, Wakefield and Northwich on the 4th, 31°F . at Marlborough on the 27th; (Scotland) 71°F . at Gordon Castle on the 4th, 28°F . at Logie Coldstone on the 24th; (Northern Ireland) 69°F . at Castlerock on the 4th, 35°F . at Ballykelly on the 9th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 196 over England and Wales, 257 over Scotland and 256 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland and Northern Ireland it was the wettest September since comparable records were available, namely 1869 and 1920 respectively. In England and Wales it was the wettest September since 1935. More than three times the average occurred in parts of north-west and south-west Scotland, locally in Fife and Angus, in the Cumbrian mountains, in scattered areas in Wales, and locally in the Isle of Man. In contrast, in parts of Kent less than 110 per cent. of the average was received, while at Margate somewhat less than the average was registered. The total rainfall for the month ranged from 1.4 in. locally on the north Kent coast to more than 40 in. in the Cumbrian mountains, where roughly 44 in. was registered at Sprinkling Tarn. The heavy rainfall damaged the harvest and caused serious flooding in many parts. Rainfall was not only exceptionally heavy but was also very frequent, measurable rain occurring every day locally in north-west Scotland and in Cornwall and on 29 days at a number of stations in western districts of Britain and locally in Northern Ireland.

Falls of more than 2 in. in 24 hours were widespread, among the heaviest being:—

6th	4.25 in. at Ulpha, Cumberland; 4.00 in. at Cwm Dyli, Snowdon; 3.72 in. at Thirlmere, Cumberland; 3.55 in. at Ambleside; and 3.44 in. at Meadowbrow, Westmorland.
14th	2.89 in. at Fort William.
16th	2.86 in. at Glenbranter, Argyll.
17th	2.74 in. at Glengavel Reservoir, Lanarkshire.
23rd	4.14 in. at Hafod Fawr and 4.02 in. at Blaenau Festiniog, both in Merioneth.
24th	4.23 in. at Pandyrddrywyrd, Merioneth; 3.13 in. at Dundee Harbour and 5.15 in. at Llydaw Intake, Snowdon.
25th	4.31 in. at Llydaw Intake, Snowdon.

Thunderstorms occurred rather frequently locally, mainly on the 4th, 7th, 8th, 11th to 15th, 17th, 19th to 22nd, 24th, 25th and 28th.

Sunshine.—Except in the Shetlands and in coastal districts of Fife, Angus and Banff, sunshine was almost everywhere less than the average, the percentages of the average for the period 1906-35 being 79 in England and Wales, 87 in Scotland and 82 in Northern Ireland. Among sunny days were the 2nd, 5th, 7th, 8th, 18th and 21st.

Fog.—Some local fog developed at times, chiefly on the 1st, 4th, 9th to 11th, 15th, 16th, 24th, 25th and 27th to 30th.

Miscellaneous Phenomenon.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 13 nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 11 days. The sun and moon appeared blue at a number of places, particularly in Scotland, on September 26th.