

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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OCTOBER, 1941.—Mild becoming cold; dry in the south, mainly wet in the north.

The first ten days were mild; a cold spell set in on the 23rd and persisted until the end of the month. Rainfall was below the average in the south and above average on the whole in the north. Somewhat widespread gales occurred between the 16th and 20th and 26th and 30th.

During the opening days of the month an anticyclone, centred initially off our south-west coasts moved north-east and then north to Scandinavia; on the 1st and 2nd depressions near Iceland moving north-east occasioned some rain in the north, and from the 4th-6th feeble troughs of relatively low pressure moved northward over the British Isles. Rain associated with a trough occurred in the south on the 4th and moved northward reaching north Scotland by the 6th; thunderstorms occurred on the 5th and 6th. Further troughs associated with a large Atlantic depression moved north-east or north over the British Isles on the 7th and 8th causing some rain and, in Scotland, one or two local thunderstorms. On the 9th and 10th pressure was high to the north and south, while a belt of complex low pressure lay across the British Isles; rain was practically general and heavy in many places. Subsequently the northern anticyclone moved quickly southward and increased in intensity over the North Sea; meanwhile a trough of low pressure moved north-east along our north-west seaboard. Rain fell in Ireland on the 12th and more generally on the 13th; temperature was lower temporarily, and sunshine records were good on the whole on the 11th and 12th. On the 14th a depression was centred off north-west Iceland and an anticyclone west of the Azores, and during the following days secondary depressions moved rapidly eastwards from the Atlantic in the general westerly current. A period of very unsettled weather ensued, with heavy local rain at times, while strong winds and gales at exposed places were experienced between the 16th and 20th.

Subsequently an anticyclone off our south-west coasts moved north-north-east to the north of Scotland and bright weather, with scattered showers, prevailed from the 21st-23rd. Thereafter the anticyclone moved south and then west to a position westward of the British Isles where it persisted until the end of the month. Colder weather set in on the 23rd and continued for the remainder of the month. Strong northerly winds, with gales at times at exposed places, prevailed between the 26th and 30th and there were widespread wintry showers in Great Britain on the 29th. On the 30th a small depression off north Scotland moved south causing rain in most places.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure for the month was considerably above the average, the deviation from the average at 7h. ranging from +6.8 mb. at Yarmouth to +9.9 mb. at St. Mary's, Scilly. Gales were reported locally from the 9th-11th, 15th-20th and 26th-30th, the gales on the 18th, 20th and 29th being among the most widespread and severe. A gale was also reported at Stornoway on the 2nd. Among the highest speeds recorded in gusts at anemometer stations were 85 m.p.h. at Manchester (Barton) and 78 m.p.h. at Bidston Observatory on the 18th, 81 m.p.h. at Stornoway and 79 m.p.h. at Bell Rock Lighthouse on the 20th, and 92 m.p.h. at Lerwick on the 29th. O: the whole westerly and northerly winds predominated.

Temperature.—Mean temperature somewhat exceeded the average, the excess for the different districts ranging from 0.2°F. in England, E. to 1.9°F. in Northern Ireland. The first 9 or 10 days were mild on the whole and in the southern half of the country it was mild also from about the 18th-20th. Subsequently temperature fell and it remained low for the rest of the month. Day temperatures reached

or exceeded 70°F. locally in England on the 2nd, 3rd, 5th-9th and 19th-20th, but chiefly on the 6th and 7th. Some low temperatures were registered on the 12th and 13th and at times from the 23rd onwards.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 75°F. at Mildenhall, Camden Square, Greenwich, Westminster, Bromley and Canterbury on the 6th and at Milford and Dover on the 7th, 25°F. at Castleton on the 12th; (Scotland) 68°F. at Stonehaven on the 2nd and Turnberry on the 7th, 19°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 24th; (Northern Ireland) 68°F. at Castlerock on the 2nd, 25°F. at Garvagh on the 24th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the standard average for the period 1881-1915 was 80 over England and Wales, 123 over Scotland and 149 over Northern Ireland.

In Scotland less than the average occurred in the Orkneys and Shetlands, the Hebrides, the Isle of Mull and one or two other isolated stations. More than 150 per cent. of the average was received over most of the coastal region extending from the Dornoch Firth to the Firth of Tay. In England and Wales more than the average occurred over most of the north-west, part of the Midlands and the northern section of north-east England. Less than 50 per cent. was received over much of England south of an irregular line drawn from Pembroke to Shoburyness, while about 25 per cent. was registered on the coast from Bournemouth to Worthing.

In Northern Ireland rainfall everywhere considerably exceeded the average, the percentages ranging from 123 at Seaforde to 185 at Aldergrove.

Daily falls of more than 2 inches were fairly numerous and among the heaviest falls in 24 hours were:—

- 5th 3.54 in. at Cantref (Brecknock) and 2.80 in. at Llwynmadoc (Brecon).
- 9th 4.39 in. at Blaenau Festiniog (Merioneth) 2.94 in. at Ambleside, 2.84 in. at Keswick and 2.72 in. at Nelson (Lancashire).
- 10th 2.78 in. at Craibstone and 2.70 in. at Craigiebuckler (Aberdeen-shire).
- 17th 2.54 in. at Lake Vyrnwy (Montgomery).

A fall of 1.75 in. at Southport on the 9th was the highest daily fall to be recorded locally there in October since records began in 1871.

Local thunderstorms were reported from the 5th-8th, 16th, 18th, 22nd-24th, 26th, 29th and 31st.

Snow or sleet showers were fairly widespread in Britain on the 29th. In Scotland, snow or sleet fell locally on the 19th, 21st, 22nd and daily from the 25th-31st.

Sunshine.—Sunshine was variable but slightly above the average on the whole. The percentage of the average for the districts ranged from 92 in Scotland, E and 97 in England NE to 113 in England, NW and 116 in England SE.

Among sunny days may be mentioned the 11th, 12th, 20th-23rd and 29th. Good records were also reported locally at times during the first week.

Fog.—There was a good deal of fog between the 2nd and 9th; it was most widespread from the 6th-8th. Some fog also occurred at times outside this period.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 10 nights: the display on the 22nd was seen as far south as Southport. At Oxford solar halos were noted on 12 days and a short sun pillar at 8h. on the 15th.