

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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AUGUST, 1943.—Mainly unsettled and dull.

Broadly speaking the weather was unsettled and dull; it was wet on the whole in the west and north and dry in south-east and east England and the Midlands.

The month opened with a complex depression situated over the British Isles. This disturbance moved north-east and was associated with heavy rain locally in the north-west and north, but only scattered showers occurred in southern England. Widespread thunderstorms occurred on the 1st and local thunderstorms on the 2nd. On the 3rd a ridge of high pressure off our north-west coasts moved eastward while a depression approached south-west Ireland from the Atlantic. The latter moved east across England; rain fell on the 4th and 5th and falls were heavy locally. On the 6th and 7th a ridge of high pressure passed east over the British Isles and was closely followed by a depression which moved east across the Faeroes; associated troughs crossed the British Isles and heavy rainfall was recorded locally in the north and north-west on the 7th, and scattered rain fell on the 8th. On the 10th a shallow depression moved east over south Scotland and north England; fairly heavy rainfall was registered locally in Scotland but there was little in south-east or east England. Scattered showers occurred on the 11th in the rear of the disturbance. A ridge of high pressure was associated with a short spell of fair weather over most of England on the 12th but unsettled conditions were renewed in Ireland and Scotland with the approach of yet another Atlantic depression. The latter moved north-east over Scotland on the 13th and was associated with fairly general rain or drizzle on that day. Showers and local thunderstorms were reported on the 14th. A fair day was enjoyed over most of England with the eastward passage of a wedge of high pressure on the 15th, but a shallow trough moving in over north Ireland and north-west England brought heavy local rain later in those areas. The 16th was also a fair, sunny day in southern England and east Scotland.

Subsequently a succession of depressions moved north-east or north along our western seaboard, while associated secondary troughs crossed the British Isles. During this period the weather was fairly warm and rather unsettled with rain at times, chiefly in the north and west, and local thunderstorms. On the 20th and 21st the rainfall was more general over the country.

Showery weather, with long sunny periods, prevailed for the most part on the 22nd and 23rd. A trough of low pressure extending from north-west Ireland to south-west England on the morning of the 25th moved north-east and caused almost general rain, which was heavy locally. A complex depression covered the British Isles on the 26th and subsequently moved east: there were showers and local thunderstorms. On the 28th a deep depression was approaching our north coasts from mid-Atlantic and on the 29th a secondary off north-west Ireland moved north-east. Rain fell in most districts and was heavy in the west. The depression over north Scotland moved away east on the 30th and was followed by a wedge, which was associated with a mainly fair day in the south-east on the 31st, though unsettled conditions were re-established in the west and north.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was somewhat below the average, the deviation at 7h. ranging from -3.1 mb. at Eskdalemuir to -0.7 mb. at Plymouth. Local gales occurred on the 1st, 5th, 8th, 20th, 22nd and 30th, and at Bell Rock Lighthouse off the east coast of Scotland also on the 13th. The month was windier than the average in parts of England, notably at Totland Bay, where the total run of wind was 8116 miles, that is, 3866 miles in excess of the average. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 57 m.p.h. at Scilly on the 1st, 63 m.p.h. at Stornoway on the 8th, 60 m.p.h. at Eskdalemuir on the 20th and 57 m.p.h. at Bidston on the 30th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was below the average in Scot-

land, slightly below in Northern Ireland and somewhat exceeded the average on the whole in England, particularly in the east, south-east and Midland districts (See Table I). It was warm on the 1st and the period 16th—20th was also warm. During these periods, temperature reached or somewhat exceeded 80°F . at a number of places in England and Wales, especially in the east and south-east. On the whole, however, there were few really warm days, particularly in the west and north. Low minima were registered on the 12th, 13th, 24th, 26th and 27th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 86°F . at Worcester on the 17th and at Lowestoft on the 18th, 34°F . at Santon Downham on the 12th; (Scotland) 76°F . at Fort Augustus on the 1st, 31°F . at Braemar and Dalwhinnie on the 27th; (Northern Ireland) 71°F . at Castlerock, Garvagh and Armagh on the 17th and 41°F . at Aldergrove on the 3rd.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881—1915 was 97 over England and Wales, 132 over Scotland and 138 over Northern Ireland. In Northern Ireland the excess was general and in Scotland also, apart from a few small isolated areas, for example around Arisaig and Glenborrowdale, in the neighbourhood of Ayr and at Braemar. More than 150 per cent. was received at Londonderry, more than 180 per cent. in the neighbourhood of Poltalloch and Helensburgh and more than 190 per cent. around Inverness. In England and Wales less than the average occurred over a wide area covering east and south-east England, Lincolnshire, the East Riding of Yorkshire and most of the Midlands, and also at some coastal stations in the south-west and along the north coast of Wales. More than 150 per cent. was registered over an area including much of Lancashire, the Lake District and part of Northumberland and Durham, as well as in a small inland area in north Wales. There was a notable decrease in rainfall over England in a south-easterly direction from these wet areas; less than 50 per cent. occurred locally in Warwickshire and the Isle of Wight.

Rainfall occurred very frequently in the west and north-west: there was measurable rain on 31 days at Dunoon (Benmore), on 30 days at Colonsay, Cardross and Glasgow, and on 29 days at numerous places in the west of Scotland, at Ambleside and at Garvagh.

Among the heaviest falls in 24 hours were:—

- 1st. 2.05 in. at Gairloch (Inverness-shire).
- 5th. 2.52 in. at Chopwellwood (Co. Durham).
- 7th. 2.62 in. at Ardgor (Argyll).
- 29th. 3.06 in. at Blaenau Festiniog (Merioneth) and 2.87 in. at Borrowdale.

Local thunderstorms were reported fairly frequently, mainly on the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 13th—15th, 17th—22nd, 25th—27th and 29th. They were most widely reported on the 1st, 14th, 17th—18th, 26th and 29th.

Sunshine.—Sunshine was appreciably below the average on the whole. There was an excess of sunshine, however, in south-east England, at a few places in south-west England and in the Orkney and Shetland Islands. The mean daily duration ranged roughly from less than 3 hours over most of west and central Scotland and small areas in the Lake District and County Down, to more than 7 hours at numerous places on or near the south-east coast of England (See Chart 4).

Fog.—There was not a great deal of fog, but early morning fog was reported locally at times. Fog was probably most appreciable on the south-west coast of England.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in east Scotland on the 8th and at more northerly stations on the 9th, 28th, 29th and 30th. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 13 days.