

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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November, 1948—Mainly dry and mild; considerable fog particularly from the 22nd–30th.

The weather of the month was notable for the foggy period in eastern and central districts from the 22nd onward. It was mild, particularly in western districts and dry on the whole.

During the opening days Atlantic depressions moved north-east along our north-west seaboard, while associated fronts crossed the British Isles. Rain fell generally and was heavy at times locally. Temperature fell appreciably on the 5th, when a current of polar air flowed across the British Isles in the rear of one of the main depressions. On the 6th and 7th a shallow depression moved slowly from south-westward of Ireland to France; considerable rain fell in southern England and south Ireland on the 6th. Meanwhile a wedge of high pressure extending south from an anticyclone over Greenland gave mainly fair weather in northern districts of the British Isles. On the 8th an anticyclone over Scotland moved south-east and subsequently turned east to central Europe and was associated with a spell of dry, rather cold weather over much of England. By the 11th a large complex depression in the Atlantic was beginning to affect our western districts and thereafter the air current over the British Isles was drawn from the south and a period of very mild weather ensued. On the 12th and 13th shallow secondaries moving north-east along our western seaboard caused rain in the west and north. On the 15th an elongated depression over Ireland moving east-south-east was associated with a gale in the south-west and rain in most parts, while on the 17th an Atlantic depression moving rapidly north-east across the country caused further rain, heavy locally in the west. On the 19th a very deep depression south of Iceland moved slowly north-east and an associated trough moved east-north-east over the British Isles; some rain occurred in most places on the 19th and showers in the west and north on the 20th, while gale force was reached locally in the west and north.

In the rear of this depression an anticyclone developed to the north-west of the British Isles and subsequently moved south-east across the country to a position north of the Alps; there was practically no rain in Great Britain from the 22nd–25th. Widespread fog occurred in England except the south-west and locally in south Scotland. From the 26th–28th a trough of low pressure associated with a depression in mid Atlantic moved slowly east and gave slight rain in Ireland and west and north Scotland. Elsewhere mainly dry conditions continued, with widespread thick, wet fog in many eastern and central districts of England and south Scotland. Thereafter dry weather persisted except in the extreme north of Scotland until the end of the month, with thick and persistent fog in eastern and midland districts. In places with persistent fog it was cold, but at those places which escaped the fog mild weather and long periods of bright sunshine were enjoyed.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure appreciably exceeded the average, the excess being greatest in the south-east; at 9h. the deviation ranged from +4.7 mb. at Stornoway to +9.4 mb. at Gorleston. Winds from some southerly point predominated and, on the whole, the month was quieter than usual in November. Wind rose to gale force locally on the 3rd–6th, 8th–9th, 15th–20th and 25th. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 69 m.p.h. at St. Ann's Head on the 4th and at Bell Rock Lighthouse on the 9th, 73 m.p.h. at Lizard and 71 m.p.h. at Scilly on the 15th and 73 m.p.h. at Stornoway on the 20th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average for the period 1906–35 by 2.3°F. in England and Wales, 2.8°F. in Scotland and 4.0°F. in Northern Ireland. There was a rather cold spell from the 5th–9th and at those places where fog was prevalent from the 22nd onwards. The week ending on the 20th was unusually mild. Temperature reached or exceeded 60°F. at many places on the 2nd, 3rd, 11th–14th, and 18th–19th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 67°F. at Prestatyn on the 2nd, 18°F. at Chopwellwood on the 24th; (Scotland) 62°F. at Cape Wrath on the 27th, 12°F. at Glenlivet on the 23rd and at Logie Coldstone on the 24th; (Northern Ireland) 62°F. at Armagh on the 14th, 24°F. at Garvagh on the 22nd.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 66 over England and Wales, 81 over Scotland and 81 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland, somewhat more than the average occurred in the Shetlands, locally in the north-west, in the neighbourhood of the Solway Firth and locally in Midlothian. Less than 50 per cent. of the average occurred over a large area in the east. In England and Wales, slightly more than the average occurred in a coastal strip of Cardigan Bay; on the other hand, less than 50 per cent. was received over much of the north-east and the neighbouring part of the Midlands, locally on the coast of Norfolk, at a number of places on the south and south-west coasts and in a small area in the south-west Midlands. In Northern Ireland percentages ranged from a little more than 100 in the extreme south-west to less than 75 in the north-east and east.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

- 4th 2.71 in. at Dundonnell House (Ross-shire).
- 14th 2.30 in. at Cwm Dyli, Snowdon.
- 17th 2.51 in. at Borrowdale (Cumberland) and
2.33 in. at Llydaw Intake, Snowdon.

Thunder occurred locally on the 4th, 13th, 14th, 19th and 20th.

Snow or sleet and hail showers were reported in Scotland by about 30 observers during the month. Falls were most frequent from 4th–8th, and showers occurred locally on the 18th–21st.

Sunshine.—Broadly speaking the month was sunnier than usual, the general values expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1906–35 being 108 over England and Wales, 100 over Scotland and 116 over Northern Ireland (See Table I). Percentages of the average were variable owing to the incidence of fog.

Fog.—Fog occurred frequently, mainly on the 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 11th–18th and 21st–30th. The most considerable fog occurred in the eastern and central districts of England and south Scotland from the 22nd onwards. As an example of the persistence of the fog in some areas, there was continuous fog in central London (Kingsway) from 9 p.m. on the 26th until the afternoon of 1st December.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland, mainly from northern stations, on 12 nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on nine days.