

SUMMARY of the OBSERVATIONS made at the STATIONS included in the DAILY and WEEKLY WEATHER REPORTS, for the CALENDAR MONTH,

NOVEMBER 1891.

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General Summary.—The weather of November was at first quiet and dry, with fog or haze over Great Britain; its condition, however, afterwards became very rough and unsettled, and gales occurred frequently with some heavy falls of rain. The South-westerly gale which swept over our Islands on the 11th was of great severity, especially on our southern coasts. Pressure and temperature were each below the average excepting in the north of Scotland; the winds varied a good deal in direction, gales being less numerous than in October; rainfall differed greatly in various parts of the kingdom, but upon the whole was less than the normal at the English Stations. The amount of bright sunshine was very deficient, excepting in the extreme south, where an excess was shown.

Pressure.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from between 29·85 ins. and 29·87 ins. over the south-east of England and the greater part of the Channel to about 29·65 ins. in the Hebrides, the gradient being favourable for winds from a rather more southerly point than that shown by the ordinary distribution for November. In the extreme north and north-east of Scotland the mean values were slightly above the average,* but in all other districts they were below it, the deficit being greatest (0·08 in. to 0·09 in.) in the south-western parts of England and Ireland. *Highest* readings were observed mostly on the 5th, when the barometer rose above 30·7 ins. at some of our north-western stations and above 30·6 ins. in most other districts. *Lowest* readings were recorded during the progress of the deep depression of the 11th (shown in Map 2, Plate XI.), when the barometer fell below 28·5 ins. in almost all parts of Great Britain, and below 28·4 ins. at some of our western and northern stations. *Range* was very large, amounting to 2 ins., or rather more, in nearly all parts of the United Kingdom.

Depressions.—Numerous depressions of considerable depth skirted our western and northern coasts, but in the majority of cases their centres were too distant for the tracks to be shown in Map 2, Plate XI. The disturbance which travelled north-eastwards across the United Kingdom on the 11th was of unusual intensity, and during its passage the barometer over the south-east of England fell to a lower level than at any time since the deep depression of December 8–9, 1886.

Anticyclones.—An anticyclone of great height spread over our Islands from the northward at the close of October, and increased in size until it embraced a considerable part of Europe. After the first week in November the system moved away to the eastward, and for the remainder of the month no well-defined anticyclone was observed in the neighbourhood of our Islands.

Winds were somewhat variable. On our northern and eastern coasts there was a decided preponderance of breezes from between South-east and West, but at the western and south-western stations there were frequent spells of Easterly and North-easterly winds. Gales were far less numerous than in October, but as many as 11 were reported at Mullaghmore, and 8 at Prawle Point, Valencia, and Scilly. On the south and east coasts of England there were not more than 4 or 5.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from a little above 48° in the Scilly and Channel Islands to rather below 41° over Central Ireland and isolated parts of the north of England and the south and west of Scotland, and to very little above 39° at Nairn. The type of distribution was of a rather more wintry character than is usual in November, and the actual values were below the average* in all districts excepting the extreme north of Scotland. Over Great Britain the deficit was small, but in Ireland it was far greater, the mean readings in the south of that country being from 3° to 4° below the average. *Highest* values were recorded mainly on the 18th or 19th, when the thermometer rose to a little above 55° in most parts of the kingdom. *Lowest* readings were observed as a rule at varying times between the 23rd and 28th, when sharp frost occurred very generally; at Newton Reigny the sheltered thermometer fell to 21°, at Lairg to 20°, and at Braemar to 16°. *Range* was moderate, the amount varying between 30° and 35° at most of the inland stations. *Vapour Tension* varied from 0·28 in. or rather more on some parts of our south and south-west coasts to 0·22 in. or less over the central parts of Ireland and Scotland. *Relative Humidity* was as high 94 per cent. at York, Oxford, and Cambridge, 96 at Hurst Castle, and 98 at Stornoway; at Aberdeen, however, the value was only 85, and on some parts of our south-west coasts it was even lower, the smallest per-centage of all being 82 at Jersey.

Rainfall varied considerably in different districts. Over some parts of our midland, north-western, and southern counties as well as in isolated parts of Ireland and Scotland, the amount was more than the average,* but in most other localities there was a deficit, the latter characteristic being rather marked at the eastern stations. In most districts the largest daily fall was recorded on the 10th or 11th during the passage of the deep depression noticed above, the amount exceeding 1 in. at several of our western and southern stations. The number of rainy days varied greatly in different parts of the country, but was upon the whole rather in excess of the average.

Bright Sunshine was upon the whole very deficient, the only localities showing an excess being the Hebrides and the Channel stations. At Jersey the per-centage of the possible amount was as high as 37, or 13 above the average,* but in all other places it was below 30 while in the northern, eastern, and central parts of Great Britain it was below 20. The lowest per-centages of all were 6 at Glasgow and 7 at Fort Augustus and Stonyhurst.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure* and *Temperature* for 29 years, 1871–90; *Rainfall* for 25 years, 1866–90; *Bright Sunshine* for 10 years, 1881–90.