

## MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

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

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## SEPTEMBER, 1926: A WARM MONTH. VERY DRY IN SOUTHERN ENGLAND AND IRELAND.

**General.**—Notable features of the weather of September, 1926, were the dryness of England and Wales (except in the north-western districts) and of southern Ireland and the wetness of southern Scotland, the short warm spell culminating on the 19th when day temperatures exceeded 85°F. in several places and the cold weather round about the 25th and finally the severe thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rain in the south-east of England on the morning of the 1st and in the northern districts on the morning of the 20th.

September, 1926, opened with severe local thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rain in south-east England in the early hours of the 1st. Floods occurred in several parts of London; 34mm. (1.34 in.) of rain were recorded at Greenwich; 31mm. (1.22 in.) at Lewisham and 35mm. (1.38 in.) at Brighton. These storms were associated with a depression over France. Further heavy rain on the 2nd was associated with shallow lows over the Channel; 35mm. (1.39 in.) fell at Standon (Herts). From about the 5th to the 15th an unsettled westerly type of weather predominated. Associated with the passage of a depression between the Hebrides and the north of Scotland, heavy rain fell in the western districts of Scotland during the night of the 14th to 15th. During this period temperature was above the normal in all districts except in the north of Scotland, the excess being most pronounced in the eastern and southern districts of England. On the 16th southerly winds began to spread over the British Isles and gave rise to a short spell of exceptionally warm weather, day temperatures exceeding 85°F. at several places on the 19th (see temperature section).

On the morning of the 20th thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rain locally were associated in northern districts with the incursion of a cold northerly current and except in the south-east of England day temperatures on the 20th were markedly lower. During the next few days temperature was moderate. On the 24th, in the rear of a depression which commenced to move south-eastwards over the North Sea northerly winds spread over the British Isles giving cold showery weather which lasted until about the 28th. Except in the northern and north-western districts where conditions were unsettled mainly fair warmer weather associated with an anticyclone off our south-west coasts prevailed generally during the last two days of the month.

The general character of the month is illustrated by the following remarks taken from observers' notes:—Southport—In several respects September proved a continuation of August, warm but humid westerly weather greatly predominating with peculiarly wet mornings, but numerous beautifully fine afternoons. A notable feature for an autumn month was the deficiency of winds from an eastern quadrant. Copdock—A month of very light westerly winds. The mean temperature is the highest in my 25 years' observations while the rainfall shows the smallest September total for any year in my records except 1919. Berkhamsted—A fine and rather warm month. The nights were exceptionally warm, the mean minimum temperature being the highest for at least 17 years. Though the rainfall was slightly above normal, the month as a whole was dry, half the month's total falling during the first three days. Redruth—The warmest September since observations started in 1901. Markree—On the whole a warm dry month.

**Pressure.**—The mean pressure was mostly slightly below normal in the northern districts of Scotland and above normal elsewhere. The deviations of monthly means of pressure at fixed hours varied from -0.8mb. at Lerwick to +4.3mb. at St. Mary's, Scilly. The prevailing winds were south-westerly to westerly. High winds occurred frequently during the month particularly in the northern districts but in few places did the wind approach gale force. The highest gust recorded was 63 mi/hr in a westerly gale at South Shields during the afternoon of the 15th.

**Temperature.**—The mean temperature of Districts 1-10 was 57.2°F. and was 2.2°F. above the normal. For the third consecutive month the mean temperature of each District was above normal, the greatest excess 3.4°F. occurring in England E. (mean temperature 59.6°F.) and the least excess 0.4°F. in Scotland N. (mean temperature 52.2°F.). During the first half of the month temperature was generally above normal except in the north of Scotland and night temperatures were particularly high, many screen minima being between 60°F. and 66°F. A notable feature of the weather of the month was the high day temper-

atures recorded on the 18th and 19th. On the 18th a maximum temperature of 81°F. was recorded at Edinburgh while in several places in England maximum temperatures exceeded 80°F. On the 19th temperature rose still higher in England; at Camden Square (London) the maximum temperature on the 19th, viz., 90°F., was the highest recorded at that place in September since 1911 and the highest recorded at any station in the British Isles since July 23rd, 1925, while the maximum temperature of 86°F. at Norwich on the same date was the highest recorded so late in the year for 44 years. After the 24th lower temperatures were experienced generally. Ground frosts occurred in nearly all Districts particularly during the last ten days of the month. The extreme temperatures for the month were:—(England and Wales) 90°F. at Camden Square on the 19th, and 29°F. at Houghall on the 26th. (Scotland) 81°F. at Edinburgh University, and Liberton on the 18th and 25°F. at Eskdalemuir on the 26th. (Ireland) 76°F. at Glasnevin on the 19th, and 31°F. at Markree Castle on the 26th.

**Precipitation.**—The precipitation for the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal, 1881-1915, was 88. The values for the constituent countries were:—England and Wales 69, Scotland 138, Ireland 80. For the third consecutive month less than the normal amount of precipitation fell over England and Wales as a whole. With the exception of September, 1921, when the total rainfall amounted to 60 per cent. of the normal in England and Wales and to 54 per cent. in Ireland, September, 1926, was the driest September in England and Wales since 1915 and in Ireland since 1917.

In England and Wales, precipitation in excess of the normal occurred in the northern and north-western districts amounting locally to slightly more than one and a half times the normal. In the remaining districts of England and Wales monthly totals were deficient, the deficiency being most pronounced in the southern districts where in some places monthly totals did not exceed 20 per cent. of the normal. At Eastbourne the month with a total rainfall of 15mm. was the driest September since 1910 when the total was 5mm. At Calshot (Hants.) the month's total amounted to only 6mm. of which 3mm. fell on the 2nd. In some western areas of Scotland monthly aggregates hardly reached the normal but over the country generally there was an excess especially in the eastern and south-eastern districts. Thus Aberdeen and Edinburgh had fully twice the normal and at these places the month was the wettest September since 1908. In Ireland precipitation exceeding the normal was confined mainly to the northern districts while in the south-eastern districts there was a pronounced deficiency.

Amongst the largest daily totals were 64mm. at Kinlochquoich on the 14th, 67mm. near Prestonkirk, 59mm. at Scaleby, 55mm. at Smeaton and 59mm. at Wolfelee on the 19th, 71mm. at Kyleakin, Skye, and 55mm. at Achnashellach on the 30th. In many cases these large daily totals formed a considerable proportion of the total rainfall for the month.

Thunderstorms occurred at most stations on various dates the largest number reported being four at Cambridge. The most severe thunderstorms were those which occurred in the early morning of the 1st in south-east England and on the morning of the 20th in southern Scotland and northern England.

On the 24th and 25th snow fell in Scotland on the Cairngorms and other northern mountains.

**Sunshine.**—The mean daily duration of sunshine was above the normal in Scotland E. and England N.E.; in the remaining districts it was below normal, the largest deficiency 1.31 hr. occurring in England, S.W. (mean daily duration 3.65 hrs.).

**Fog.**—Fog occurred frequently during the month particularly in the southern districts of England. The foggiest periods generally were the first few days of the month and the 16th to the 23rd.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—Solar and lunar halos were observed at several stations on various dates. Observations of Aurora were made at Aberdeen on the 6th, 7th, 8th, 15th and 28th, at Inverness on the 6th and at Richmond (Kew Observatory) on the 14th. The Zodiacal band was observed at Deerness on the 5th and 6th and the Zodiacal band and counter-glow at Wadhurst (Kent) on the 12th and 13th. Parhelia were observed at Oxford on the 9th and 14th and a line squall at Huddersfield (Oaks) at 18h. 45m. on the 19th.