

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

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

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE. To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses: ADASTRAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY LONDON, W.C.2; 120, GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH; YORK STREET, MANCHESTER; 1, ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF; 15, DONEGALL SQUARE WEST, BELFAST; or through any Bookseller.

Vol. 43, No. 11.

ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE METEOROLOGICAL COMMITTEE.

Price 9d. Net, Post free, 10d.

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NOVEMBER, 1926: EXCEPTIONALLY WET.

General.—November, 1926, was chiefly remarkable for its unusual wetness associated with the passage of an abnormally large number of low pressure systems over the British Isles.

At the beginning of the month fine weather and low temperatures prevailed generally over the eastern part of the British Isles. On the 2nd, however, the depression in the west spread eastwards and from then until the end of the month pressure continued low. Temperature rose generally about the 5th when a deep depression passed across the Hebrides causing south-westerly gales in many places: the rainfall for the 24 hours ended 7h. that morning was heavy, 137mm. (5.40 in.) being measured at Snowdon, 83mm. (3.28 in.) at Dungeon Ghyll (Westmorland), and 73mm. (2.87 in.) at Eskdalemuir. Floods occurred in many parts of Scotland and Wales. From the 8th to the 22nd unsettled conditions prevailed with rain on most days and high winds or gales frequently. At Plymouth a gust of 80 m.p.h. was registered on the 10th. The heaviest rain occurred on the 18th when 129mm. (5.06 in.) fell at Delphi Lodge (Mayo), and 105mm. (4.12 in.) at Aasleagh (Mayo), but measurements of over 50mm. were recorded on other days at many places. Floods occurred in several districts. Thunderstorms and hail showers were also experienced fairly frequently throughout this period. During the last week a deep depression which had passed across our islands filled up over the North Sea and pressure became temporarily high over England on the 24th and 25th. Widespread fog occurred in southern Scotland on the 24th and in England on the 25th. Temperature did not rise above 32°F. at Renfrew on the 24th and 33°F. at Croydon on the 25th. There was a return to generally unsettled rainy conditions on the 26th and on the 29th a depression centred over the English Channel caused heavy rain in the south. Meanwhile a belt of high pressure extending from Norway to the Azores was moving south-east and fair weather prevailed in Scotland and North Ireland on the 28th and 30th.

The general character of the month is illustrated by the following remarks taken from observers' notes:—Southport—No more humid November and only one wetter one (viz. that of 1890) have been experienced in 55 years' observations, while the mean air pressure is the lowest November value during that time. Southerly winds were exceptionally prevalent. First two days and last week cold. Copdock—A mild, very wet and very dull month; the sunshine for the month, viz. 36 hours is the smallest November total. The rainfall is just below that in 1916 the only other year in which the November rainfall has exceeded 4 inches. Berkhamsted—The month was dull and very wet, rain falling on nearly every day. Eastbourne—The total sunshine, 36.4 hours is the lowest in November since 1888 when 32 hours were recorded, while the rainfall amount is the highest since records began in 1888. Sidmouth—The heaviest rainfall of any month since 1870 when our records began. Dublin—A cheerless, cold and unsettled November with frequent and abundant rainfall and unusually low atmospheric pressures.

Pressure and Winds.—Monthly means of pressure were below the normal in all districts, a noteworthy feature of the month's weather being the markedly low monthly mean pressures recorded in nearly all districts. The deficit from normal of the monthly mean pressures at fixed hours varied from 14.8mb. at Birr Castle to 8.4mb. at Yarmouth. At Cahirciveen the monthly mean pressure was about 2mb. lower than the previous record in November 1877. The chart of mean pressure shows a centre of low pressure to the north-west of the British Isles and a secondary centre of low pressure over southern Ireland, the general isobaric trend favouring southerly to south-westerly winds. The lowest recorded pressures occurred generally on the 5th in Scotland and on the 20th in England and Wales and in Ireland. The lowest recorded pressure at mean sea level was 952mb. at Stornoway on the 5th and the highest 1027mb. at Cahirciveen on the 26th.

High wind and gales occurred frequently during the month, the stormiest periods being the 5th and 6th, from the 13th to the 15th and from the 18th to 21st. During the south-westerly gale on the 5th, gusts over 80 mi/hr. were recorded at Edinburgh and Quilty.

Temperature.—The mean temperature for Districts 1–10 was 43.1°F. and was 0.7°F. below the normal.

The cold weather which formed such a remarkable feature of the weather during the last fortnight of October 1926 continued during the first few days of November, notably in the eastern parts of the British Isles, the lowest minima for the month occurring on the morning of the 1st when 9°F. was recorded in the screen at Balmoral and Braemar and 1°F. on the grass at Balmoral. Temperature rose generally about the 5th and, apart from some rather cold weather during the last week of the month, remained moderate with no very remarkable fluctuations. The deviations of the monthly means of temperature varied from

+1.2°F. in England E. (mean temperature 44.7°F.) to -1.5°F. in Scotland W. and Ireland S. (mean temperatures 41.7°F. and 43.8°F. respectively).

The extreme temperatures of the month were:—(England and Wales) 62°F. at Llandudno on the 4th, 16°F. at Houghall on the 1st. (Scotland) 59°F. at Edinburgh on the 4th, 9°F. at Balmoral and Braemar on the 1st. (Ireland) 60°F. at Dublin (Glasnevin and Trinity College) on the 5th, 22°F. at Dublin (Phoenix Park) on the 1st.

Ground frost occurred frequently during the month.

Precipitation.—The outstanding feature of the weather of the month was its exceptional wetness; it was the wettest November in the period 1870–1926 over England and Wales and over the British Isles taken as a whole. Over Scotland, November 1917 was wetter with an excess of precipitation amounting to 46 per cent. of the normal, while over Ireland November 1916 was wetter with an excess amounting to 44 per cent. of the normal.

The general precipitation of the British Isles for November 1926 expressed as a percentage of the normal 1881–1915 was 163; the values for the several countries were:—England and Wales 188, Scotland 130, Ireland 137.

Numerous stations including Leyland, Cheltenham, Marlborough, Tavistock and Redruth reported the heaviest November fall on record. It was the wettest November at Dundee, Perth and Ross-on-Wye since 1888 and at Cargen, Southport and Blundellsands since 1890. The month's rainfall was the heaviest November rainfall at Rothamsted in 74 years records, at Bath and Richmond (Kew Observatory) in 60 years records and at Camden Square (London), Sidmouth, Polapit Tamar (near Launceston) and at St. Michael's-on-Wyre (Lancashire) in over 50 years records.

The month's precipitation was remarkable not only for the amounts recorded but for its persistence. At numerous stations the number of days of precipitation was markedly in excess of the normal; at Balfasound and Salecombe precipitation occurred every day during the month. At Rothamsted the number of days of rain was the highest on record in November and has only once been equalled, in November 1914, since 1873. At Camden Square the duration of rainfall of measurable amount was 85 hours, the largest value recorded in November since 1881, when registration of rainfall duration was commenced.

With regard to the distribution of precipitation, monthly totals were above the normal everywhere with the exception of some northern districts in Scotland. Except in Cornwall, North Devon, and East Kent more than twice the normal fall was measured over Southern England and Wales and this amount was recorded in parts of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Forfar and Co. Mayo. Falls of more than 250 per cent. of the normal occurred in parts of Dorset, Hampshire and Hereford while at Ross-on-Wye, the fall of 199mm. was 31½ per cent. of the normal.

There were large areas with over 10 inches (254mm.) of rain for the month in Dartmoor, Exmoor, the English Lake District, Wales, the Western Highlands of Scotland and also in Connemara. The largest monthly totals were those reported from Llyn Llydaw on Snowdon of 19.50 in. (495mm.) and from Delphi Lodge in Connemara of 18.36 in. (465mm.)

Precipitation was almost entirely in the form of rain; some snow occurred in many districts on the 2nd. Owing to heavy rains, augmented by the melting of snow which had accumulated on the hills during October, extensive flooding took place in parts of Scotland on the 5th, the Nith rising to its highest level since 1910 and the Tweed to its highest level since 1891.

Thunderstorms occurred on a few occasions at several places during the month. Hail was reported at several stations.

Sunshine.—The mean daily duration of sunshine with respect to the normal varied from +0.76 hr. in Scotland N. (mean daily duration 1.98 hr.) to -0.76 hr. in England S.E. (mean daily duration 1.39 hr.) The sunniest districts generally with respect to the total number of hours of bright sunshine recorded were the extreme north east of Scotland and the extreme south-west of England.

Fog.—Fog occurred frequently in most districts during the month; the foggiest period generally extended from the 23rd to the 27th.

Very dense fog occurred locally on the 24th and at Glasgow and Aldergrove (north-east Ireland) the fog continued throughout the day. In London, Glasgow and other large towns the fog was particularly dense on the evening of the 24th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Halos of 22° were observed on several occasions during the month. The Zodiacal Light was seen at Oxford on the 7th and 9th. Aurora was observed at Cockle Park on the 9th, at Gordon Castle on the 12th, 22nd and 29th and at Deerness on the 28th.