

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 2; 26 YORK STREET, MANCHESTER 1; 1 ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF; 80 CHICHESTER STREET, BELFAST; or through any bookseller.

VOL. 53. No. 11.

ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE METEOROLOGICAL COMMITTEE

Price 1s. 0d. net, Post-free 1s. 1d.
 Annual Subscription, including
 Annual Summary and Introduction,
 15s. 0d. post free.

NOVEMBER, 1936.—Mainly dull; unsettled until the 17th; widespread fog 19th—28th.

The month was dull in most districts; it was wet on the whole in England and Wales, northern and western Ireland and locally in southern Scotland. A striking feature of the weather was the widespread and often thick fog which was experienced between the 19th and 28th.

Unsettled conditions prevailed for the most part until the 17th. From the 1st–4th pressure was high south-westward of the British Isles, while depressions moved eastward to the north of Scotland and secondary troughs crossed the British Isles. Between the 6th and 9th a depression approached the west of Ireland and then moved in over Ireland and finally over Scotland. Rain fell fairly generally and was heavy locally while gales occurred at times particularly in the west. A new intense depression approached south-west Ireland on the 11th and moved rather rapidly east and then north-east across England to Denmark. Strong winds and gales were widespread; rain fell in most places and was heavy locally. In the rear of this disturbance a belt of high pressure crossed the British Isles on the 13th but unsettled weather with rain at times was renewed almost immediately. A secondary depression moved rapidly across northern Scotland on the 15th and between the 16th and 17th a new depression crossed England. Behind the latter the northerly winds caused a rapid fall in temperature on the 18th.

On the 18th an anticyclone to the west and north-west of the British Isles moved south-east and thereafter anticyclonic conditions prevailed for the most part until the 28th, though a shallow depression was situated westward of Ireland on the 23rd and 24th. During the anticyclonic régime, widespread and persistent fog occurred in some areas; for example at Barton, Manchester, the period 19th–28th was characterised by almost continuous fog.

A deep depression west of Iceland moving eastward caused further rain and strong westerly to north-westerly winds with local gales on the 29th and 30th.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure for the month was somewhat below the average generally, the deviation from the average at 7h. varying from +0.1 mb. at the Scilly Isles to -1.7 mb. at St. Ann's Head.

Strong winds and local gales occurred frequently during the unsettled period from the 1st–18th and gales were widespread in the west and north on the 29th and 30th; at St. Ann's Head gales were reported on as many as 12 days. Mean hourly velocities of 56 m.p.h., 56 m.p.h. and 55 m.p.h. were registered at the Lizard, St. Mary's, Scilly and Pendennis Castle respectively on the 8th and among the highest speeds recorded in gusts were 87 m.p.h. at the Lizard on the 8th and at Stornoway on the 30th and 82 m.p.h. at Pendennis Castle on the 8th and at Lympne on the 9th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was somewhat variable but differed little from the average for the country generally. The period 1st–17th was rather mild on the whole, and a return to milder conditions occurred on the 29th. A rather cold spell was experienced from the 20th–27th (particularly from the 22nd–25th), though some high maxima were recorded locally in north-east Scotland on the 21st. Persistent fog was responsible for low day temperatures in some areas; for instance, temperature remained below 32°F. all day locally in England on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th. Minima of 20°F. or below were registered at a number of places in Great Britain on the 23rd and 24th, and 20°F. was recorded locally in Ireland on the 21st and 22nd.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 60°F. at Cannington and Killerton on the 17th, 17°F. at Houghall on the 23rd; (Scotland) 58°F. at Craibstone on the 21st, 16°F. at Braemar on the 23rd; (Ireland) 59°F. at Donaghadee on the 6th and 20°F. at Hazelhatch on the 21st and at Phoenix Park, Dublin, on the 22nd.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 107, the values for the constituent countries being England and Wales 121, Scotland 81 and Ireland 104.

In England and Wales the excess was general except in small, rather isolated areas. Over the whole of Scotland northward of the Firth of Forth less than the average occurred; at a few places in the north-east and north less than 50 per cent was received. Totals were more variable in the south of Scotland, where a number of stations had more than the average. In Ireland, broadly speaking more than the average occurred in the north and west and less than the average in the south-east.

Among heavy falls in 24 hours may be mentioned:—

7th. 71 mm. at Borrowdale (Cumberland), 60 mm. at Belleek (Co. Fermanagh) and 45 mm. at Auchencairn (Kirkcudbright).

11th. 55 mm. at Emsworth (Sussex) and at Ryde, Isle of Wight, 51 mm. at Compton (Sussex) and 47 mm. at Newport, Isle of Wight.

15th. 48 mm. at Lake Vyrnwy (Montgomery).

Thunderstorms occurred locally at times mainly on the 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th and 11th and hail was reported fairly frequently between the 4th and 15th and on the 30th.

Snow or sleet was reported locally on high ground in Scotland on seven days between the 4th and 16th and again on the 29th and 30th; it was recorded locally in northern England on the 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 15th and 29th.

Sunshine.—Sunshine was rather variable but deficient on the whole, the percentage of the average for districts 1–10 being only 85 (See Table I). At Eastbourne, it was the dullest November since 1888, at Aldergrove the dullest since records were first taken in 1927 and at Stornoway and Cardross the dullest November of the century. On the other hand, locally on the east coast of Scotland and in the extreme north of Scotland there was an excess; for example, at Montrose it was the sunniest November since 1925.

Fog.—Fog occurred frequently; it was recorded at the morning observation hour on 16 days at Glasgow, 15 days at Pontefract, 14 days at Nottingham and 13 days at West Linton and Manchester (Whitworth Park). The widespread, persistent and often dense fogs which occurred between the 19th and 28th were a notable feature of the weather of the month. (See Meteorological Magazine, Dec. 1936, pp. 252–6).

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Edinburgh on the 3rd and at places further north in Scotland on eight other days. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 13 days. A waterspout was seen eastward of the station at the Scilly Isles at 8.30 a.m. on the 10th, travelling rapidly south-east.