

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

Annual Subscription
including Annual
Summary and Intro-
duction 15/- post free.

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

Price 1s. net
Post Free 1s. 1d.

Vol. 67 No. 4

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

Crown Copyright Reserved

April 1950 - Unsettled; wet; severe snowstorm south-east England night of 25th—26th.

The weather was mainly unsettled and wet with spells of cold northerly winds. An unusually severe snowstorm caused much damage in south-east England on the morning of the 25th—26th.

From the 1st—3rd a deep depression moved from south-west of Iceland to the Baltic; winds over the British Isles were westerly veering to north, strong to a gale locally at exposed stations on the 1st and 2nd; rainfall occurred generally on the 1st and was heavy in the Western Highlands. Showery weather prevailed on the 2nd and 3rd with local thunderstorms on 2nd, but long periods of bright sunshine were recorded. On the 4th another depression was centred off south-west Iceland, and a trough of low pressure crossed the British Isles; on the 5th and 6th a new disturbance in mid-Atlantic approached our western seaboard and further troughs passed across the country. Rain or showers occurred on the 4th and scattered showers, chiefly in the west and north, on the 5th and 6th. In the south, conditions on the 6th and 7th were affected by a continental anticyclone and rather warm, fair weather prevailed. From the 7th—9th a depression over the mid-Atlantic moved east-north-east to the neighbourhood of Thorshavn and then turned north, and on the 10th a secondary depression moved rapidly east across north Ireland and north England. Rain fell in western and northern districts on the 7th and showers occurred generally from the 8th—11th; in Scotland the rainfall was heavy from the 7th—9th. Gales were recorded from the 8th—10th and were severe locally, particularly on the 10th. Subsequently, in the rear of depressions over the North Sea, a spell of cool north-westerly winds occurred, with showers of rain, hail, sleet and local thunder but long periods of bright sunshine. On the 15th a wedge of high pressure moved south-east across the British Isles and low screen minimum temperatures were registered locally on the mornings of the 15th and 16th. On the 17th a depression off south-west Ireland moved to France; rainfall was general, and rather heavy locally in England. On the 19th and 20th another wedge moved south-east over the country followed by a weak trough. Fair weather prevailed in most parts on the 19th but some rain, mainly slight, occurred in the west and north on the 20th. Thereafter the Azores anticyclone spread north-east giving another fair day. The period 19th—22nd was among the warmest spells of the month. Subsequently a small depression developed off north-west Ireland and moved south-east giving rain generally on the 22nd and 23rd. Meanwhile a depression east of Greenland moved south-east to the southern North Sea. In the rear of this disturbance an Arctic airstream, with strong gusty winds, covered the British Isles; temperature fell rapidly and widespread sleet, hail and snow showers occurred. By 18h. on the 25th a secondary polar depression was situated over the Bristol Channel; this disturbance subsequently moved along the English Channel, being centred over the Strait of Dover by 6h. on the 26th. Unusually heavy snowfall occurred in south-east England. On the closing days of the month a trough of low pressure, associated with an Atlantic depression, moved slowly north-east across the British Isles causing rain generally and a considerable rise in temperature.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average generally, the deficiency increasing from south to north. At 9h. the deviation from the average ranged from -0.7 mb. at Scilly to -9.6 mb. at Lerwick. The prevailing winds were from south-west to north-west or north and over much of the country the month was windier than usual. At Southport only two ApriIs, namely 1927 and 1904, have been windier. Gales occurred frequently particularly in

western districts, the stormiest periods being the 1st—2nd, 7th—10th, 24th and 26th. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 62 at Durham on the 8th, 65 at St. Ann's Head on the 9th and 69 at Cranwell, 71 at Bidston, 72 at Southport and 74 at Fleetwood on the 10th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was somewhat below the average in Scotland and Northern Ireland and about the average on the whole in England and Wales. The deviations for the districts ranged from -1.0°F. in Scotland, W. to $+0.5^{\circ}\text{F.}$ in England, S.E. (see Table I). This was the first rather cool April since the cold April of 1941. A rather cold spell occurred from the 10th or 11th until the 18th and it was cold from the 24th—28th. Among the warmest days were the 1st, 6th—8th, 20th—22nd and 30th.

The extremes for the month included:—(England and Wales) 68°F. at Bramley on the 21st, 21°F. at Bellingham, Malham Tarn and Newton Rigg on the 25th; (Scotland) 62°F. at Gordon Castle and Lossiemouth on the 30th, 17°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 25th; (Northern Ireland) 64°F. at Castlerock on the 30th, 25°F. at Ballykelly on the 15th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881—1915 was 135 over England and Wales, 150 over Scotland and 189 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland less than the average occurred on the east coast from north of Aberdeen to Fifeshire, while more than twice the average was received over a large inland area in the north-west and locally in Lanarkshire. In England and Wales less than the average was registered in rather small scattered areas in Durham, the Midlands and Monmouthshire and also in Pembrokeshire and extreme south-west Cornwall and locally on the coast of south Devon. On the other hand more than twice the average occurred in an area extending from northern Montgomeryshire to Cheshire and Flint as well as locally in Kent and Surrey. In Northern Ireland the excess was general, with more than twice the average over much of county Londonderry. The rainfall was not only excessive but measurable falls occurred frequently.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

1st 1.94 in. at Glenquoich (Inverness-shire) and 1.90 in. at Achfary (Loch More).

8th 2.14 in. at Kinlochquoich (Inverness-shire).

Thunderstorms occurred locally, mainly on the 2nd, 4th, 8th—10th, 12th—15th, 17th, 24th and 26th.

Local sleet or snow showers occurred frequently, particularly from the 9th—13th and 24th—28th. In the west and north of Scotland snow lay to a depth up to 4 in. around the 25th—28th. The storm of the night of the 25th—26th in south-east England was severe causing much damage to trees, shrubs and telegraph poles and dislocating telephone services. Over much of a narrow belt roughly from Throwley, Kent to Amesbury and Upavon level snow was 6 in. deep or slightly more early on the 26th but it soon melted.

Sunshine.—Broadly speaking sunshine was less than the average in north-west and west Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales and exceeded the average in the English Midlands, east and south England, the Shetland Islands and locally in east Scotland.

Fog.—Fog, mostly at night and early morning occurred locally at times; chiefly on the 6th—8th, 13th, 14th, 16th—18th, 20th—22nd, 25th and 28th—30th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on seven nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 13 days.