

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

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

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OCTOBER, 1925: MILD; DRY AND SUNNY AT FIRST, THEN UNSETTLED.

General.—Apart from some rather cold weather just before the middle of the month, October, 1925, was predominantly mild; the first half of the month was dry and sunny, the second half unsettled, windy and wet.

At the beginning of the month mainly fair and quiet weather was associated with the anticyclonic which covered the British Isles. Mist and fog were experienced locally, particularly in the early morning, and day temperatures began to rise; a maximum temperature of 73°F. was recorded at Tunbridge Wells on the 3rd and a maximum of 75°F. at Culmpton on the 4th, while minima varying between 55°F. and 60°F. were registered in several places. In the northern districts of Ireland and Scotland and in the eastern districts of England some rain or drizzle on the 3rd and 4th was associated with slight disturbances but the amounts were very small. By the 8th the winds had become northerly or north-easterly generally: there was much cloud in all districts and temperatures were markedly lower; at only a few places in the south-west of England day temperatures reached 60°F. and in Scotland maxima below 50°F. were registered. Thick fog developed in most parts of England and Ireland on the morning of the 11th, but by the 12th the anticyclone withdrew a little westwards, while the Scandinavian low pressure system grew deeper; a definite northerly wind current set in over the eastern districts of England and Scotland. Rain became general over the British Isles; snow, sleet and hail showers were experienced in Scotland and eastern England during the next few days, and snow lying to a depth of 1 in. was reported from Balmoral on the 14th and 17th. The lowest temperatures of the month were recorded at this period, a screen minimum of 17°F. being reported from West Linton (Pebbles) on the 16th, and a grass minimum of 13°F. from Rhayader (Radnor) on the 14th.

On the 17th, following an irregular distribution of pressure, a depression near the Hebrides and another north of the Azores maintained a warm south-westerly current over the British Isles. As the Hebrides depression moved eastwards over the North Sea the winds over the British Isles became northerly on the 18th with a consequent fall in temperature. A deep Atlantic depression caused a renewal of the south-westerly current on the 19th and became the predominating influence on the weather of the next few days. Secondary to this depression caused strong to high winds generally, with gales in the English Channel and heavy rain in southern England. During the period 23rd to 25th, the weather was mainly fair but showery. On the 25th a new depression appeared in the Atlantic, and generally unsettled stormy weather with occasional fair and sunny periods in southern England continued until the end of the month.

The general character of the month is illustrated by the following remarks taken from observers' notes:—Southport.—An abnormally humid month; calm, cloudy and equable. Very mild except during a cold spell (chiefly northerly) from the 8th to the 16th. Copdock.—A more or less normal month for the time of the year. The month has provided one record in the sunshine on the 6th, viz., 10.2 hrs: this is more than half an hour above any total I have previously recorded on any day in October. The ground has been wet and in many directions has delayed work on the farms. Torquay.—The weather during the month was generally mild, sunny and, for the first seventeen days, exceptionally dry. Totland Bay (Isle of Wight).—The sunshine recorded on October 25th, viz., 9.0 hrs. has only once been registered before so late in autumn. Dublin.—The first half of the month was quiet but hazy and foggy, the second half wet, squally and mild.

Pressure.—At all stations in Scotland and Ireland the mean pressure at fixed hours was below normal. The trend of the isobars was normal, the prevailing winds being between south-west and west over the north of England, Scotland and Ireland. In the southern half of England and Wales there was a fair proportion of winds from other points of the compass. The departures of monthly means of pressure at fixed hours from the normal varied from -2.6 mb. at Aberdeen to +1.0 mb. at St. Mary's (Scilly). Gales were experienced at coastal stations on the 22nd to 23rd, 26th to 27th, 29th and 31st.

Temperature.—The mean temperature of Districts 1-10 was 50.9°F. The mean temperature for the month was above normal in all districts. The largest excess, 2.6°F., was experienced in Ireland S. (mean temperature 52.4°F.) and the smallest excess, 1.2°F. in Scotland N. (mean temperature 47.6°F.).

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The hottest day of the month occurred at most stations during the first week. The lowest screen temperature occurred generally during the nights ending on the mornings of the 14th, 15th and 16th. Some of the nights were unusually warm for the time of year especially the 21st, when the temperature did not fall below 60°F. at Richmond (Co. Surrey)—the highest on record for the period October 21st to 31st for over 50 years. At Cheltenham the night minimum of October 20th to 21st was as high as the record for October since 1867, which occurred on October 5th, 1886.

The extreme screen temperatures for the months were:—(England and Wales) 75°F. at Culmpton and Killerton on the 4th, 23°F. at Marlborough and Porton on the 15th and at Rhayader on the 11th. (Scotland) 72°F. at Arbroath and Perth on the 5th, 17°F. at West Linton on the 16th. (Ireland) 74°F. at Kilkenny on the 4th, 27°F. at Newtownbarry on the 15th.

Ground frosts occurred frequently, as many as 10 or more occurring at several stations in the east of Scotland and in the north-eastern and midland counties of England. The largest number of days of ground frosts, viz., 15, occurred at Leuchars (Fifehire).

Precipitation.—With the exception of areas in the north-west of the British Isles the rainfall aggregates for the first half of the month were below normal. In Scotland the total rainfall for the month was above normal in the extreme north and in some central, western and southern areas, but elsewhere there was a well-defined deficiency. There were rather heavy falls on the 16th (27mm. at Greenock), from the 19th to 22nd and from the 26th to 28th, but the heaviest general fall appears to have been on the 26th, when considerable areas had 25mm. or more and Arrochar 38mm. In eastern districts a great part of the month's rainfall was accounted for between the 19th and 22nd. At North Berwick the small total of 32mm. represented only 42 per cent. of the normal. In the western, north-western and central areas of England and Wales the rainfall was above normal; elsewhere it was below normal. In Ireland aggregates varied a good deal; with the exception of parts of Co. Down, they were below normal in the north of Ireland.

The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal was 102; the values for the several countries were:—England and Wales 103; Scotland 98; Ireland 105.

Amongst the heaviest falls were:—57mm. (2.23 in.) and 76mm. (2.98 in.) at Tynywaun (Glamorgan) on the 19th and 20th respectively, 52mm. (2.05 in.) at Holne (Devon) on the 22nd, 138mm. (5.425 in.) at Lake Llydaw, Snowdon, on the 25th and 47mm. (1.85 in.) at Seskin (Waterford) on the 29th.

At most stations in England and Wales the heaviest fall occurred on the 19th.

In Scotland, thunderstorms occurred in Shetland on the 1st, 2nd and 6th and towards the north-east on the 14th, at Kelso on the 22nd and here and there on the 26th. In south and south-east England thunder occurred locally on the 24th.

Hail was reported from a few stations.

Sunshine.—The mean daily duration of sunshine was above normal in all the eastern Districts of Great Britain and in England S.W. and the Channel Isles. The greatest excess over normal 0.53 hrs. occurred in Scotland E. and the greatest defect 0.58 hrs. in Ireland S. At Manchester (Oldham Park) only 10 per cent. of the possible duration of sunshine was recorded. The sunniest days of the month generally were the 6th and 9th, when records exceeding 10 hrs. were obtained at several stations.

Fog.—On most days during the first half of the month fog occurred generally. There were few stations which were entirely free from fog, as many as 16 days of fog being registered at Waterford, 14 at Galdston, 13 at Lincoln and at Clongowes Wood, 12 at Coventry. In Scotland the number of days of fog did not exceed four.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were of frequent occurrence. Aurora was observed at Wick on the 16th and 21st, at Malin Head on the 8th, at Stonyhurst on the 9th and 21st and at Armagh on the 8th, 9th, 21st and 23rd. At Lerwick no active auroral displays were seen during the month; glows were observed on the 11th to the 16th, 19th, 23rd and 24th.