

SUMMARY of the OBSERVATIONS made at the STATIONS included in the DAILY and WEEKLY WEATHER REPORTS, for the CALENDAR MONTH,

MARCH 1894.

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General Summary.—The earlier half of March was very rough and unsettled, especially in the north, where heavy rains were experienced, with snow or sleet at times, and with frequent thunder and lightning in the west of Scotland and the north of Ireland. During the latter part of the month the weather was mostly fine and dry, but with mist or fog in the nights and early mornings. Bright aurora was seen very generally on the night of the 30th. Pressure was low in the north, but slightly above the average in the central and southern districts; temperature showed an excess in nearly all places; the winds were chiefly Westerly or South-westerly; rainfall was deficient, excepting in the west of Scotland; and bright sunshine was unusually abundant over the entire kingdom.

Pressure.—*Mean* at 8 a.m. ranged from 30·0 ins. and upwards over the English Channel to about 29·6 ins. in the Shetlands. In the central and southern parts of England the values were slightly above the average,* but elsewhere they were below it, and as the deficiency was greatest (0·15 inch or more) in the north of Scotland, the gradient over our islands was much steeper than usual. The difference between the mean pressure in the Shetlands and in the Channel Islands was in fact twice as great as that shown by the chart of average values. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 23rd, when the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. or more in the north and east of England, and to 30·3 ins. or more in all other parts of the kingdom. *Lowest* readings were observed in the northern districts on the 11th, when the mercury fell below 28·2 ins. in Caithness and the Shetlands, and below 29·0 ins. over Scotland generally. In the central and southern parts of England the lowest pressures occurred on the night of the 12th, when the barometer fell to between 28·9 ins. and 29·2 ins. *Range* was moderate at the southern stations, but large in the north.

Depressions.—During the early part of the month several large depressions advanced to our northern coasts from the westward and passed on to Scandinavia, the most important systems being those of the 2nd and the 11th. On the 6th one of these disturbances changed its course and travelled south-eastwards across the North Sea to North Germany and Russia, while on the 12th and 13th a well-marked secondary depression moved north-eastwards across England and the North Sea. After the middle of the period no depressions of any consequence were reported in the neighbourhood of our islands.

Anticyclones.—The only anticyclone observed during the earlier half of the month was a system of moderate intensity which spread over our western coasts on the 4th, and which moved away shortly afterwards to the southward. On the 17th, however, a larger and more important system advanced from the Atlantic and remained over Western Europe until very nearly the close of the month, its central area being situated for the most part to the eastward or north-eastward of our islands.

Winds.—The prevailing winds were Westerly or South-westerly, excepting in the extreme southern districts, where the Easterly current was equally well represented. During the earlier half of the period gales were frequent, especially in the west and north, but in the latter fortnight the northern districts experienced a large amount of absolutely calm weather.

Temperature.—*Mean* at sea level ranged from 48° and upwards in the south-west of Ireland and the Scilly and Channel Islands to 43° or less on the east coasts of Great Britain, and to 41° or less over the inland parts of the north of Scotland. The general distribution showed a fair agreement with the normal, but the actual values were everywhere above the average,* the excess varying between three and four degrees in many parts of Great Britain. *Highest* readings were observed mainly on the 23rd and 24th in the north and east of Scotland, but between the 27th and 31st in nearly all other districts, the thermometer exceeding 65° at most stations, and reaching 72° at Manchester and 70° at Cambridge. *Lowest* readings were recorded mostly between the 16th and 18th, but in some parts of England equally low temperatures were observed on the 27th. *Range* was large over the inland portions of Great Britain; at Bawtry, Loughborough, and Manchester it amounted to 45°. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·28 inch or more on our extreme south-west coasts to 0·22 inch and less over central Ireland and most of the eastern and central parts of Great Britain. *Relative Humidity* varied from 80 per cent. at Aberdeen, Liverpool, Belmullet, and Jersey to 94 per cent. at Donaghadee and 96 per cent. at Stornoway.

Rainfall was confined almost exclusively to the earlier half of the month, and showed a deficiency in most places, the only localities with an excess being the west of Scotland and a few isolated stations in England, Wales, and the north of Ireland. The largest aggregates for the month were 9·4 ins. at Glencarron, 8·4 ins. at Fort William, and 7·2 ins. at Laudale; while the smallest were 0·5 in. at Bawtry and the North Foreland, and 0·6 in. at Shields and Geldeston. Amounts exceeding an inch in 24 hours were recorded at several stations in the western parts of Great Britain, the largest falls being 1·6 ins. at Glencarron on the 5th, and 1·3 ins. at Fort William on the 7th and Laudale on the 10th.

Bright Sunshine was largely in excess of the average* over nearly the whole kingdom. More than 50 per cent. of the possible amount was recorded over a considerable portion of Great Britain, as well as at Dublin, the highest values of all being 60 per cent. at Tenby and 59 per cent. at Guernsey. The lowest percentages were 32 at Fort Augustus, 33 at Manchester, and 36 at Fort William.

* The averages employed are—Pressure and Temperature for the 20 years, 1871–90; Rainfall for the 25 years, 1866–90; and Bright Sunshine for the 10 years, 1881–90.