

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

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

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OCTOBER, 1932.—Very unsettled and wet.

Very unsettled conditions persisted throughout the month, the most noteworthy feature being the frequent and excessive rains. For the first few days pressure was high on the Atlantic and low over Scandinavia. Cool, northerly winds, accompanied by showers and bright periods, prevailed for the most part but a trough of low pressure over England caused milder conditions at first in the south and some rain in south-east and east England on the 1st. On the 4th a wedge of high pressure crossed the country from the west giving a bright day in south and east England. The fair weather was broken by a depression moving south-east from Greenland to a position off the Hebrides. This system, with associated secondaries which moved east or north-east across our southern districts, caused a period of unsettled conditions until the 10th. Rain was particularly heavy on the 7th and 8th and widespread strong winds or gales occurred on the 8th. Between the 9th and 10th the depression off the Hebrides moved away eastward but further disturbances crossing the country from the west occasioned a continuance of unsettled weather, with heavy local rain at times and some bright periods. Sunshine records were good on the whole on the 18th. A notable wet period occurred in England from the 20th–23rd. A deep depression south of Iceland moved a little southward, while secondary depressions passed north-east across England causing mild, disturbed weather with heavy rain. An inch or more fell in many places in southern England on the 20th and 23rd and gales occurred locally in the English Channel. From the 26th onwards depressions followed a south-easterly track across the country from the south of Iceland and temperature became generally lower. Snow fell in Scotland on the 29th and lay to a depth of a few inches on high ground.

Pressure and Wind.—As was to be expected from the very unsettled character of the month pressure was everywhere below the normal, notably in the north and east, the deficiency ranging from 10·2 mb. at Aberdeen to 3·7 mb. at Cahirciveen. This caused a fairly steep gradient for westerly to north-westerly winds and in most districts winds from between west and north were unusually prevalent. Gales were experienced locally on the 7th, 8th, 14th–15th, 17th–18th, 21st–23rd and 29th–31st. Strong winds or gales were frequent in exposed places and occurred on 23 days at the Scilly Isles, and on 21 days at Holyhead and Spurn Head.

Temperature.—The mean temperature for the month was below the normal in all districts, the deviation being greatest in Scotland where it amounted to nearly -2° F. There were days, however, when warm air from the south spread up in front of some of the numerous depressions and temperature reached or exceeded 60° F. locally. In Scotland the warmest days were generally reported between the 7th and the 12th and in England on the 1st (mainly in the south), the 7th and between the 16th and 23rd. Temperature touched 67° F. near Reading on the 1st. The coldest spells occurred around the 4th and from the 26th to the end of the month. The lowest minima were noted at most places on the 29th, though some low readings were also registered on the 4th. Temperature fell to 22° F. at Eskdalemuir and to 24° F. at Renfrew, Braemar and West Linton on the 29th, while 25° F. was recorded locally in England on the same day. At Dalwhinnie 24° F. was registered on the 4th. On the grass a temperature of 18° F. was reported at

Renfrew on the 4th and 16° F. and 17° F. were noted at Renfrew and Dalwhinnie respectively on the 29th. The extreme temperatures for the month were:—(England and Wales) 67° F. at Shinfield on the 1st, 25° F. at Bromyard, Appleby and Leyland on the 29th. (Scotland) 61° F. at Kilmarnock on the 9th, 22° F. at Eskdalemuir on the 29th. (Ireland) 66° F. at Ballinacura and Cork on the 16th; 29° F. at Markree Castle on the 10th, at Armagh on the 28th, at Birr Castle on the 29th, at Mountmellick on the 4th and at Kilkenny on the 4th and 29th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal for the period 1881–1915 was 148; the corresponding figures for the constituent countries were:—England and Wales 153, Scotland 169, Ireland 105. Only in west and south-west Ireland and at isolated places elsewhere was rainfall below the normal. In many other parts the month was excessively wet. Over eastern Scotland, east of a line joining Inverness to Dumfermline and over most of the Lothians rainfall aggregates were more than twice the normal. This was also the case locally in Lancashire, Devonshire and the south-eastern counties of England. Rainfall was not only excessive but very frequent; in many areas in Scotland there was not a single day without measurable rainfall and in all districts of Great Britain the number of rain days was appreciably in excess of the normal. It was the wettest October at Aberdeen and Arbroath since 1866, at Greenwich Observatory, London, since 1882, at Newquay, Cornwall, in 40 years and at Southend during a period of observations covering 52 years. Locally in Argyll and Inverness-shire there were five days with an inch or more of rain. Among the heaviest falls in 24 hours were 81 mm. at Snowdon (Carnarvon) and 78 mm. at Trecastle (Brecon) on the 21st and 69 mm. at Trecastle (Brecon) and 70 mm. at Princetown (Devon) on the 7th.

Thunderstorms were fairly frequent. They were reported locally in Scotland on the 14th, 17th, 20th, 21st and 23rd, in Ireland on the 22nd and 27th, and in England on the 11th, 13th and 26th.

Sunshine.—Sunshine aggregates were very variable in different parts of the country; well above the normal on the whole in Ireland and below the normal in Scotland, notably in the north and east, where the percentages of the normal were only 70 and 85 respectively. The month was also dull in parts of eastern England; at Gorleston for example the total, 71 hours, was the lowest since records began in 1908 and at Cranwell, 84 hours, was the lowest since observations started in 1921. There were good sunshine records, however, on individual days particularly on the 4th when 10 hours or over were recorded locally in south and east England.

Fog.—Fog occurred occasionally chiefly between the 9th and the 12th, on the 16th and at times between the 20th and 25th. It was dense locally in the Glasgow area on the 24th and 30th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Aurora was observed in Scotland on the nights of the 10th, 20th to 24th inclusive and also on the 27th and 29th. The solar halo was observed at Oxford on 14 days and a lunar rainbow, bluish green in colour, was visible on the 8th at Lympington, Hants.