

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

JANUARY 1899.

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**General Summary.**—Until the closing week the weather of January was extremely unsettled, with frequent heavy rain in the west, and occasional falls of snow or sleet in the north. Thunder and lightning occurred at various times, chiefly in the south-western parts of the kingdom. Towards the close of the month, however, the weather became fair, dry and cold, with fog in many of the northern and central districts. Pressure was low, especially in the west; temperature was high over England, but at about its normal height in Ireland, and rather low in Scotland; winds were principally from between South and West, with heavy gales over Ireland and England on the 2nd and 12th; rainfall was mostly in excess of the average and resulted in serious floods in Wales; bright sunshine was rather deficient in the west, but exceeded the normal in most other districts.

**Pressure.**—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29·85 ins. and upwards over the eastern and central parts of the English Channel, to 29·6 ins. and less in the north and north-west of Scotland. The general distribution showed a fair agreement with the normal, but the actual values were in all cases below the average,\* the deficit being greatest (0·2 in. or more) in the west of Ireland. *Highest* readings occurred on the 25th or 26th, when the barometer rose to 30·7 ins. and upwards over the south of Scotland and the northern and central parts of England, and to 30·5 ins. and upwards in all other parts of the United Kingdom. *Lowest* readings occurred over the country generally on the 1st or 2nd, the barometer falling below 28·6 ins. in the west of Scotland and the extreme north of Ireland, and below 29·1 ins. in nearly all other districts. Over the northern half of the kingdom, however, the barometer was equally low, and in many parts of Scotland even a trifle lower, during the passage of the deep depression of the 12th. *Range* was large in the north, but moderate in the south.

**Depressions.**—These were very numerous, the centres of the main disturbances moving in an easterly or east-north-easterly direction across the more northern parts of our islands and the North Sea. The most important depression was that of the 12th-13th. In this case the disturbance was very deep, and moved with unusual rapidity, its passage eastwards across our islands and the North Sea being accomplished at the rate of about 35 miles per hour.

**Anticyclones.**—With the exception of a system which spread temporarily over us from the southward on the 5th, no anticyclone was observed in our immediate neighbourhood until the closing week. On the 23rd an area of high readings spread in from the Atlantic, the system afterwards increasing greatly both in size and height, and eventually covering the greater part of Europe. After the 27th, however, it began to diminish; and although the system had not entirely disappeared at the close of the month, the readings of the barometer in its central area had then fallen below the average for the time of year.

**Winds** were chiefly from points between West and South, but in Ireland and the west of Scotland there was a fair prevalence of breezes from East and South-east. Gales were very frequent in the west, the number of days affected being as large as 18 at Pembroke and 17 at Roche's Point and Scilly. The Westerly gales experienced over Ireland and England on the 2nd and 12th were extremely severe; in Scotland the wind on the former occasion blew with the force of a strong gale from the eastward, and on the latter occasion from the northward.

**Temperature.**—*Mean at sea level*, ranged from 47° and upwards in Scilly and the Channel Islands, and from 45° and upwards on our south-west coasts generally, to 39° and less over the inland parts of northern Ireland, and to 36° and less at several stations in northern and central Scotland. Over Ireland and Scotland the general distribution was in fair accordance with the normal, but in the northern and eastern parts of England there was an almost complete absence of the region of cold found there in an ordinary January. At the English stations the mean values were above the average,\* the excess amounting to 4° and upwards in the east and south, and to more than 5° at Dungeness. In Ireland the values differed but little from the normal, but in Scotland there was a very general deficit. *Highest* readings occurred in Scotland on the 8th or 9th, but over England and Ireland mostly between the 18th and 21st, the thermometer on the latter dates rising slightly above 55° in many places. *Lowest* readings occurred on various dates in the different districts, but mostly between the 24th and the 29th, when sharp frost occurred in most places; at many of the northern and central stations the sheltered thermometer fell below 20°, at Lairg to 12°, and at Braemar to 10°. *Range* was moderate. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·28 in. at Scilly and Jersey, and 0·26 in. and upwards on many other parts of our southern coasts, to 0·22 in. and less over the central parts of England and Ireland, and to 0·18 in. or less over central Scotland. *Relative Humidity* ranged from 96 per cent. at Ardrossan, 94 per cent. at Dungeness, and 93 per cent. at Parsonstown, to 83 per cent. at Nairn and 78 per cent. at Valencia.

**Rainfall** was in excess of the average\* over the country generally, and considerably so at many of the western stations. At some places on the east and south-east coasts of England, however, as well as at several stations in the north of Ireland and the west and north of Scotland, there was a deficit, varying greatly in extent in different localities. The largest aggregates reported were 10·1 ins. at Hawes Junction, 9·8 ins. at Arlington, and 9·3 ins. at Killarney; the smallest being 1·4 in. at Felixstowe, 1·5 in. at Spurn Head, and 1·8 in. at Yarmouth. Falls exceeding an inch in 24 hours were recorded in the south-west of England on the 1st, in Scotland on the 18th, and at many western stations on the 20th and 21st, the heaviest of all being 2·8 ins. at Stornoway on the 21st, and 1·9 in. at Glenlee on the 18th.

**Bright Sunshine** was rather deficient at some of the western stations, but exceeded the average\* elsewhere. The percentage of the possible duration ranged from 38 at Felixstowe, 37 at Hollesley Bay (Suffolk), and 33 at Geldeston, Margate and Bognor, to only 9 at Manchester (Prestwich) and 8 at York and Glasgow.

\* The averages employed are—*Pressure* and *Temperature* for the 25 years, 1871-95; *Rainfall* for the 30 years, 1866-95; and *Bright Sunshine* for the 15 years, 1881-95.