

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

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

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NOVEMBER, 1927: Unusually warm first few days; wintry spell 7th—14th; frequent northerly and easterly winds.

General.—The outstanding features of the weather of November were the remarkably high temperatures recorded during the first few days of the month and the spell of wintry weather between the 7th and the 14th.

The very mild south-westerly winds which prevailed during the last week of October persisted during the first few days of November and temperature remained at an unusually high level for the time of year, exceeding 60°F. at several places on the 2nd and 3rd. Associated with a depression to the west of Ireland, much rain fell on the 1st and during the night of the 1st to 2nd over a large part of Ireland, Scotland and the north of England, heavy falls being recorded locally; amongst the largest amounts were 50mm. at Morecambe, 69mm. at Inveraray, 56mm. at Langholm, 63mm. at Cardiff on the 1st and 58mm. at Strathspey (Lancaster) on the 2nd.

As the low pressure system shifted north-eastwards, the winds became first westerly and then northerly increasing to gale force locally on the 5th and 6th and accompanied by heavy showers of rain or sleet in northern and north-western districts. With the influx of the cold northerly current of air, temperature fell and by the 7th wintry conditions had become established in most districts and continued up to the 14th. Thunderstorms occurred at a few places on the 8th, a thunderstorm at Holyhead on that date being accompanied by heavy rain. The fall in temperature was pronounced; at Aberdeen on the 8th the maximum temperature of 35°F. was in marked contrast with the maximum temperature of 61°F. on the 2nd and 3rd. At Richmond (Kew Observatory) the maximum temperature on the 8th was 38°F. compared with 62°F. on the 3rd. Sleet, hail and snow fell on several days in northern and eastern districts and in some southern districts between the 10th and 12th. Severe frosts in the screen and on the ground were widely experienced; at Renfrew the temperatures as recorded by the screen minimum thermometer and by the terrestrial radiation thermometer on the 8th were respectively 19°F. and 12°F. and during the night of the 12th to the 13th the temperature fell to 20°F. in the screen and to 15°F. on the ground at Eskdalemuir and to 13°F. in the screen at Balmoral.

On the 14th the winds backed and during the next few days westerly to south-westerly winds brought mild rainy weather and in several districts temperature rose above 50°F.

On the 18th associated with an intense anti-cyclone over Scandinavia and low pressure to the south of the British Isles, strong easterly winds were experienced up to the 21st, gales occurring in the North Sea and along the east coast between the 19th and 21st.

From the 22nd to the 28th quiet cloudy weather occurred in the south-east and the Midlands with much fog at times, notably on the 26th, while in the north and west strong south-westerly winds and unsettled weather prevailed. On the 28th a deep depression moved across the Feroes and a trough of low pressure subsequently crossed our Islands giving much rain in southern England on the 29th. In its rear the weather was generally fair, though dull in southern England, and with fog and low temperature in parts of Scotland on the 30th.

The general character of the weather of the month is illustrated by the following remarks taken from Observers' notes:—Southport—A remarkably variable month in most respects, but after the 5th, exceptionally northerly and easterly type of weather. Copdock—November, 1927, has been a damp and gloomy month. A feature of the month was a sharp thunderstorm on the 12th, an unusual occurrence in November in East Anglia, but it will be for the high temperatures during the first four days for which the month will be chiefly remembered; the maximum of 63°F. on the 2nd and the minimum of 55°F. on the following night eclipse any previous record at this station. West Kirby—A month of varied weather. Good sunshine records except from November 17th–24th. Rainfall heavy. Berkhamsted—The month was rather cold and wet with a spell of gloomy foggy days during the last half of the month. Halstead—The month opened with a few very mild days which were followed by an exceptionally cold period from the 7th to the 14th. Very little rain during the first half of month. Newport (Isle of Wight)—Latter part of month was very dull with unusually dense fog on the 22nd and 26th. Teignmouth—A normal month. Winds were generally between N.E. and N.W. and were mainly moderate.

Pressure and Winds.—The mean pressure was above the normal in all districts. Over Ireland and Scotland and the western districts of England and Wales the trend of the isobars favoured winds between south-west and west though there was a considerable proportion of northerly winds; over central and eastern England winds were more uniformly distributed over the compass.

Strong winds occurred during the first few days of the month and reached gale force locally on the 5th and 6th. The periods 18th to

23rd and the 25th to the 28th were stormy in many districts. The highest wind velocity recorded in a gust was 84 m.p.h. at Lerwick on the evening of the 28th.

Temperature.—The mean temperature for the British Isles regarded as a whole differed only slightly from the normal. In all Districts the departures from normal were either slight or moderate, the largest excess, 0.7°F., occurring in Ireland N. (mean temperature 44.7°F.) and the largest deficit, 0.9°F., in the Channel Isles (mean temperature 48.4°F.). Unusually high temperatures for the time of the year were recorded during the first few days of the month, temperature higher than any previously recorded in November occurring on the 2nd at Eskdalemuir (60°F.), Yarmouth (64°F.), Copdock (63°F.) and Tynemouth (67°F.). The week ending November 12th was unusually cold in all districts, the deficiency in mean temperature relative to the normal amounting to almost 9°F. in Scotland E. and W. (mean temperatures 34.1°F. and 35.9°F. respectively) and to 8°F. in England S.E. (mean temperature 38.8°F.). A noteworthy feature of the weather during the period of easterly winds and overcast skies from the 18th to the 21st was the relatively small diurnal range in temperature.

Ground frosts occurred in all districts, notably in northern and central districts, and were most frequent and severe during the second and third weeks of the month.

The extreme temperatures for the month were:—(England and Wales) 67°F. at Tynemouth, Chopwellwood, Geldeston and Wakefield on the 2nd, 21°F. at Burnley and Leyland on the 8th and at Bromyard on the 12th; (Scotland) 65°F. at Kelso on the 2nd and 9°F. at Braemar on the 12th and 13th; (Ireland) 67°F. at Dublin (Phoenix Park) and Kilkenny on the 2nd and 20°F. at Markree on the 13th and 30th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal for the period 1881–1915 was 111; the values for the constituent countries were:—England and Wales 121; Scotland 106; Ireland 93.

In England and Wales precipitation was somewhat irregularly distributed, but in general amounts were above the normal. Norwich with 202 per cent. of the normal and Ashburton with 78 per cent. of the normal illustrate the extreme range of variation in monthly totals.

In Scotland rainfall aggregates varied irregularly but towards the south-east there was in general a deficiency and towards the south-west and in the extreme north an excess. Heavy to very heavy falls were general on the 1st. There were moderate to heavy falls between the 15th and 18th (80 mm. at Lochgoilhead on the 18th) and some rather wet days between the 23rd and 28th except in some eastern districts.

In the north and in a few other isolated districts in Ireland, precipitation was normal or above; elsewhere there was a deficiency which was most pronounced in the central districts.

Most districts experienced snow during the cold spell which lasted during the second week; in Scotland there were some heavy falls on several days during the period and very serious drifting in some districts.

Thunderstorms occurred locally on various dates.

Sunshine.—Sunshine aggregates were generally below the normal in the central, eastern and southern districts of England and above the normal elsewhere. Good sunshine records were obtained on several days, notably round about the 12th and on the 25th. Amongst the largest amounts were 8.4 hr. at Porton, Ross-on-Wye and Ventnor on the 11th, 8.3 hr. at Falmouth on the 12th, 7.7 hr. at Armagh and 7.0 hr. at Malvern and Norwich on the 13th and rather more than 7 hrs. at several places notably in eastern and southern England on the 25th (e.g., 7.4 hr. at Tunbridge Wells and 7.3 hr. at Margate and Portsmouth). The most sunless period generally occurred during the period of easterly winds from about the 18th to the 23rd.

Fog.—Fog occurred locally during the first few days of the month, widely on the 8th and again from the 22nd to the 28th. Dense fog was experienced over a wider area in southern England and the Midland Counties on the 26th and in several places, including many parts of London, persisted throughout the day.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Halos of 22°F. were observed at many stations on various dates. Aurora was observed in Orkney or Shetland on the 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 27th, 29th and 30th and at Gordon Castle on the 27th and 30th.