

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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October 1952—Cold at first, unsettled and rather mild later. Sunny in the north.

In the British Isles the cold weather experienced in September persisted during the first three weeks of October, while the last ten days were unsettled and rather mild. Broadly speaking rainfall was less than the average over most of the east of Great Britain and at many places on or near the west coast, while more than the average occurred in central districts of Great Britain and in Ireland.

On the 1st a depression moved north-east from the Strait of Dover to the southern North Sea giving rain, chiefly in southern and eastern districts of Great Britain. Thereafter a ridge of high pressure off our north-west coasts moved south-east and was followed by a trough. Showers occurred, chiefly in the north and west, but there were long bright periods locally, particularly in the west. On the 5th a ridge extending from an anticyclone on the Atlantic moved south over our southern districts and bright weather prevailed for the most part in England, Wales and Ireland, while a trough gave cloudy, showery weather in Scotland. On the 6th a deep depression centred north of Scotland moved east and later turned south-east to the Skagerrak, and a short spell of westerly to northerly winds ensued with scattered rain or showers but long, sunny periods in many places. By the 8th an anticyclone was situated over southern Ireland giving a mainly sunny day over southern districts, but a trough, associated with a depression moving east from Iceland to Norway, caused rain in northern districts on the 8th and slight scattered rain or showers on the 9th. Subsequently an anticyclone moved from westward of Ireland to Scandinavia and a short cold, fair spell occurred with some low minimum temperatures. A trough gave considerable rain in the west on the 12th, while a deep depression crossing southern England on the 13th was associated with heavy rainfall over a large area and a gale in places. Another ridge of high pressure followed with further widespread early morning frost and fog. Weather continued mainly fair in the east until the 18th with some rise in temperature. On the 18th and 19th a trough of low pressure off our south-west coasts moved slowly east giving rain in most parts; winds backed to south-east and the 19th was a cold, mainly wet day. Meanwhile the anticyclone over Scandinavia persisted and dull, cold weather prevailed on the 20th and 21st. A spell of unsettled, milder weather ensued which lasted until the end of the month. On the 22nd and 23rd a deep Atlantic depression approached our north-west coasts, while troughs moved north-east across the country giving rain and local thunderstorms; gales occurred in places in the north and north-west. At Ternageeragh, near Upperlands, Londonderry, a tornado caused considerable damage on the 23rd. Subsequently the main depression moved east-north-east to the north of Scotland and filled; widespread thunderstorms occurred on the 24th and showers on the 25th and 26th. On the 27th a trough associated with an intense depression on the Atlantic (pressure at the centre about 940 mb.) moved north-east over England giving heavy rain in the west on the night of the 26th to 27th and more generally on the 27th. The main depression subsequently moved north-east off our north-west seaboard causing widespread rain and gales, which were severe on our north-west coasts. The rain was followed by showers, local thunderstorms and sunny periods. Further rain spread into the west on the 31st and right across the country during the night.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was somewhat below the average for the period 1901–30, the deviation from the average at 9h. ranging from about –2 to –4 mb. On the whole winds were most frequently from between south-east and south-west in the north and from between south-west and north-west in the south. Gales occurred locally on the 6th, 9th, 13th, 14th, 23rd, 25th and 27th–29th; they were most widespread on the 28th. Among the highest gusts recorded in knots were 61 at Scilly on the 13th, 67 at Holyhead (Valley) on the 23rd and 57 at Edinburgh, 58 at Speke, 61 at Bidston and 58 at Aberporth on the 28th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was generally below the average, the deviation from the average for 1906–35 being –1.4°F. in England and Wales, –1.0°F. in Scotland and –0.6°F. in Northern Ireland. The periods from the 10th to 12th and from the 15th to 16th were cold generally but low minimum temperatures were also registered on the 13th and 14th in Scotland. On the 16th the temperature fell to 21°F. at Rhayader. Minima of 22°F. were recorded at a number of Scottish stations on the 11th, 15th and 16th. Ground frosts were frequent during the first half of the month. Among low grass minimum temperatures recorded were 11°F. at Elmdon on the 12th and 12°F. at Glenlivet on the 15th. Rather mild days occurred on the 2nd, 17th and 23rd to 29th.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 64°F. at Aber and Chivenor on the 17th, 21°F. at Rhayader on the 16th; (Scotland) 66°F. at Perth on the 2nd, 22°F. at West Linton and Dalwhinnie on the 11th, at Braemar and Logie Coldstone on the 15th and at Dalwhinnie and Glenlivet both on the 15th and 16th; (Northern Ireland) 61°F. at Armagh on the 2nd and at Castle Archdale on the 17th, 27°F. at Garvagh on the 11th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 105 over England and Wales, 106 over Scotland and 133 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland more than the average occurred in central and western areas while there was a deficit in the east and in some southern areas. Only about half the average was registered in parts of Midlothian and East Lothian. In England and Wales more than the average occurred in central districts while less than the average was received in eastern districts and at most places on or near the west coasts. In Northern Ireland amounts were generally above the average reaching nearly twice the average in parts of County Down.

Among heavy falls in 24 hours were:—

- 1st 2.58 in. at Cwm-Dyli, Snowdon and 2.08 in. at Uswayford, Northumberland.
- 13th 2.98 in. at Bamford, Derbyshire, 2.81 in. at Derwent Dale, Derbyshire and 2.66 in. at Midhope Moor, Yorkshire.
- 25th 2.78 in. at Kinlochleven, Argyllshire and 2.04 in. at Ashburton, Devonshire.
- 27th 2.61 in. at Thirlmere, Cumberland, 2.59 in. at Ulpha, Cumberland, 2.53 in. at Llyn-y-fan Fach, Carmarthenshire and 2.45 in. at Halifax, Yorkshire.
- 28th 3.33 in. at Kinlochhourn, Inverness-shire.

Thunderstorms occurred on the 1st, 3rd, 22nd–25th and 28th–30th; they were most widespread on the 23rd, 24th and 30th.

Snow or sleet showers fell locally on eight days in the north of Scotland.

Sunshine.—The duration of bright sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1906–35 was 104 in England and Wales, 116 in Scotland and 133 in Northern Ireland. In Scotland amounts were generally above the average except locally in the east and south. At Turnberry, Leuchars, St. Andrews, Dundee and Dunbar it was the sunniest October for over 20 years. Northern and Midland districts of England and most of Wales received more than the average while in remaining areas most places had a deficit. In Northern Ireland it was considerably sunnier than is usual in October.

Fog.—Fog occurred locally at times, mainly at night and in the early morning, being most widespread on the 8th and during the period 14th–17th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on ten nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on eleven days.