

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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NOVEMBER, 1945.—An exceptionally dry month.

The weather of the month was quiet, mild, dull and markedly dry.

Mainly anticyclonic conditions predominated throughout the month. Broadly speaking, during the opening days pressure was high to the north-east and low to the south-west of the British Isles. Weather was rather unsettled and very mild and, on the 4th, thunderstorms of a summer type were reported in a belt from Dorset to south Wales and in parts of the Midlands. On the 5th and 6th an anticyclone over Scandinavia moved south and maintained mainly fair weather, apart from fog, over the British Isles. Subsequently the anticyclone moved south-west to a position off south-west Ireland, and a ridge developed northward. Meanwhile a depression in the far north and an associated trough moved east and caused some rain, chiefly in the north, on the 7th, and scattered showers on the east coast on the 8th. On the 9th a depression over northern Germany, moving rapidly south, caused further showers on the east coast. Thereafter a new anticyclone over Scandinavia moved a little south and then west, and a wedge of high pressure covered the British Isles. Showers occurred in east Britain and occasional rain in the extreme south-west and west, and temperature was lower than previously. By the 14th the highest pressure was situated over Russia with a wedge extending westward over the British Isles, while a deep depression was centred in mid-Atlantic with a trough off our south-west coasts. Rain occurred in south-west districts and slight rain or showers on the east coast. On the 16th a deep depression was centred off north-west Spain, and pressure continued high to the north-east of the British Isles. This situation persisted for some days, and strong winds prevailed in the south-west, with a gale at exposed places; further rain occurred at times in the south-west. The depression filled gradually off Portugal. From the 20th-23rd shallow troughs moved very slowly eastward over the British Isles, while high pressure persisted over southern Scandinavia: rain occurred at times in most places, the falls being generally slight but heavier locally. On the 25th and 26th a trough of low pressure moved south-east from the north of Scotland and, in its rear, cold, northerly winds caused a fall in temperature; there was scattered rain, and snow showers were reported in the north of Scotland. Behind the trough a wedge extending north-east from an anticyclone over Ireland moved south-east, and rather cold, fair weather, apart from fog, was maintained over England and Wales and southern Ireland until the 30th. Troughs associated with depressions in the far north caused rain in northern districts.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure exceeded the average, the excess being greatest in the north; at 9 h. the deviation from the average ranged from +12.4 mb. at Lerwick to +2.6 mb. at Scilly. Except in the south-west pressure was almost uniform over Great Britain. The month was unusually quiet over the greater part of the country; at Southport and Oxford the total run of the wind was the lowest for November since records started in 1897 and 1881 respectively. In Scotland also conditions were exceptionally quiet, wind reaching gale force on only three days, the average number of days for November over the previous ten years being 16. Gales were recorded locally on the 7th and 8th, at the Scilly Isles on the 12th and 13th, on the south-west coasts from the 16th-18th and in the north of Scotland on the 27th and 28th. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 65 m.p.h. at Scilly on the 12th, 63 m.p.h. at Lerwick on the 28th, and 58 m.p.h. at Pendennis on the 16th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature considerably exceeded the average for the month, the deviation being +3.2°F. in Scotland, 2.4°F. in England and Wales, and 3.0°F. in Northern Ireland. This was the tenth successive month with a mean temperature

above the average over the country as a whole. The coldest week, compared with the average, was the 11th-17th and it was rather cold from the 26th-28th. The warmest spell occurred during the first 8 days, when temperatures of 60°F. or above were registered locally.

The extremes for the month were: (England and Wales) 66°F. at Penrhos on the 1st, 23°F. at Santon Downham on the 16th and at Brough Sowerby and Totnes on the 27th; (Scotland) 61°F. at Dumfries on the 1st and Craibstone on the 4th, 17°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 13th; (Northern Ireland) 59°F. at Castlerock on the 1st, 27°F. at Garvagh on the 27th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 23 over England and Wales, 23 over Scotland and 26 over Northern Ireland. Over the country as a whole it was the driest November on record; in England and Wales and Scotland the records go back to 1869. At Kew Observatory and Oxford it was the driest November in records back to 1856 and 1815 respectively. More than 50 per cent. of the average occurred in the Shetlands, locally on the east coast of Britain, in the extreme south-west of Cornwall and around Seaforde, County Down. Less than 10 per cent. was received in a fairly large area covering part of south-west Scotland, north-west England, and part of North Wales and in another area over part of south-east England and the South Midlands. Less than 10 per cent. was registered also in the Moray Firth, at Renfrew, Stirling, and Bradford. Less than 5 per cent. was received locally in Lancashire. An absolute draught was registered by many observers in Great Britain. At Fleetwood the drought lasted throughout the month.

Among the heaviest falls in 24 hours were:—

4th 1.07 in. at St. Athan.
12th 1.82 in. at Penzance, 1.56 in. at Gulval and 1.21 in. at Lizard.
22nd 0.98 in. at Luton, and 0.95 in. at Whipsnade.
28th 1.52 in. at Melvich (Sutherland).

Thunderstorms occurred at a number of places in south-west England and South Wales and in parts of the Midlands on the 4th and at Coldstream (Berwickshire) on the 10th.

Light snow was reported on hill tops in the localities of Braemar and Glencoe on the 11th but Ben Nevis and the neighbouring peaks and Ben Lomond had their first coat of snow on the 26th.

In the recent unusually mild months the "permanent" snow of Ben Nevis is said to have completely disappeared. Sleet fell at Poole on the 17th and Bircham Newton on the 28th and very slight snow at Southport on the 20th.

Sunshine.—On the whole sunshine was decidedly below the average, the percentages of the average being 68 over England and Wales, 70 over Northern Ireland, and 86 over Scotland. At a number of places it was the dullest November on record; for example at Shobernyness, Gorleston, Ross-on-Wye, Sealand, and Leuchars. In the Hebrides and Shetlands and locally in England, chiefly on the south-west coast, the month was sunnier than usual.

Fog.—Fog developed frequently, particularly in inland towns in England and Wales and south Scotland. At 9 h. it was reported on 14 days at Ushaw and Newport (Shropshire), and on 13 days at Oswestry, Ross-on-Wye, and Newport (Mons). The main periods with fog were the 1st-7th, 11th-12th, 15th-16th, 20th-25th, and 28th-30th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on eight nights. The most widely observed display was on the evening of the 8th. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on three days.