

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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SEPTEMBER, 1937.—Wet in Ireland and parts of England and Western Scotland; warm 1st—7th and 26th—30th.

The weather of the month was variable; rainfall exceeded the average in most of Ireland, and over fairly large areas in western Scotland and southern England and the Midlands, but in eastern and south-western Scotland and in most of northern England there was a deficiency. Sunshine was deficient in Ireland, and a considerable excess was registered on the east coast of Scotland; elsewhere it was somewhat variable. Warm spells were enjoyed at the beginning and towards the end of the month, but it was mainly cool from about the 9th—21st.

A deep depression south-west of Iceland moving slowly north-east caused rain at times during the opening days, and on the 4th and 5th a depression on the Atlantic moved rapidly north-east and occasioned rain, chiefly in Ireland and Scotland. A new deep depression approached south-west Iceland on the 6th and moved away north-eastward, and on the 7th a secondary depression passed rapidly north-east across the British Isles; some rain fell in west and north on the 6th and somewhat more generally on the 7th. In the rear of the secondary depression an anticyclone west of Ireland spread east, but on the 9th a depression off south-west Ireland moved south-east to France and caused rain generally in the southern half of the British Isles. A spell of cool northerly winds ensued with some scattered showers and considerable sunny periods. From the 12th—14th a depression moved south-east across England to the Netherlands giving cool, unsettled weather with rain at times. This disturbance was followed by another complex depression which moved south-south-east from Iceland and then slowly east to north-east across the British Isles; thunderstorms occurred frequently during this period and were reported from some part or other of the country on each day from the 16th—20th inclusive. A brief spell of fairer weather occurred around the 20th—21st, though unsettled conditions were renewed in the west on the 21st by another depression approaching south-west Ireland. Anticyclonic weather prevailed over England on the 23rd and on the 24th a depression north of the Faeroes moved north-east and an associated trough crossed the British Isles. Subsequently an anticyclone developed over central Europe while pressure was low westward of Ireland; warm air from the south caused a considerable rise in temperature in this country on the 27th. During the 27th a trough of low pressure moved eastward and was followed on the 28th and 29th by a wedge of high pressure. Unsettled weather was renewed, however, in the west and north on the evening of the 29th, and heavy rain was reported in Ireland and Scotland at the end of the month, though fair weather persisted in south-east and east England and the Midlands.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average throughout the country, the deficiency at 7 h. varying from 2.4 mb. at the Scilly Isles to 6.7 mb. at Wick. Gales occurred somewhat frequently in the north of Scotland; they were reported on 9 days at Stornoway, 7 days at Duntulm and 6 days at Lerwick. Gales were recorded in the north and west between the 4th and 9th; they were also recorded on the north-west coast of Ireland on the 21st and 24th, and on the north coasts of Scotland on the 23rd, 24th and 29th. Among the highest speeds recorded in gusts were 72 m.p.h. at Lerwick on the 7th, 63 m.p.h. at Stornoway on the 6th, 59 m.p.h. at Kirkwall on the 8th and 58 m.p.h. at Edinburgh on the 5th and at Eskdalemuir on the 6th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature very slightly exceeded the average on the whole except in Ireland. Warm spells occurred during the first week and from the 26th onwards. Temperatures

of 80°F. or somewhat above were recorded at a number of stations in east and south-east England and the Midlands on the 7th and 78°F. was touched at Darwen on the 27th. The period 9th—21st was mainly cool. The extremes for the month registered in standard screens were:—(England and Wales) 82°F. at Lowestoft on the 7th, 30°F. at Appleby on the 17th; (Scotland) 72°F. at Liberton, Edinburgh, on the 27th, 27°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 18th; (Ireland) 73°F. at Glasnevin and Trinity College, Dublin, and at Newcastle, County Wicklow on the 7th and 34°F. at Birr Castle on the 11th, at Hillsborough on the 21st and at Markree Castle on the 25th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation of the British Isles, expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881—1915, was 101, the values for the constituent countries being, England and Wales, 97, Scotland, 85, and Ireland 133. The excessive rainfall in Ireland was almost general, a deficiency being confined to small areas in the north-east and around Dublin. In Scotland less than the average was registered in the eastern half of the country and in the south-west, while more than the average occurred for the most part in the west and north-west, in Dumfriesshire, the Orkneys and locally in the Shetlands. Less than half the average occurred at numerous places in east Scotland and only 21 per cent. at Logie Coldstone, Aberdeenshire. In England and Wales the distribution was very variable; over most of the northern half of the country there was a deficiency; in the southern half there were large areas with an excess but there were also scattered areas with less than the average. In some parts of England and Wales the incidence of four consecutive dry months June to September, has resulted in a shortage of water; Mr. Sandeman of Crickhowell, Brecon, writes: "River Usk the lowest within memory . . . General shortage of water; reservoirs drying up . . ." Thunderstorms occurred at times, particularly from the 13th—20th, and locally in north-west Ireland on the 30th.

Among heavy falls of rain in 24 hours or less may be mentioned:—

- 4th. 2.06 in. at Inagh, Co. Clare.
- 5th. 1.56 in. at Troutbeck, Cumberland.
- 16th. 2.21 in. at Holton Heath, Dorset and 1.75 in. at Creech Grange, Dorset.
- 17th. 1.53 in. at Chopwellwood, Durham.
- 18th. 1.68 in. at Brereton, Staffs., 1.56 in. at Fritton Hall, Suffolk and 1.53 in. at Street, Somerset.
- 30th. 2.32 in. at Inveraray, Argyllshire, 2.03 in. at Glasdrum, Fort William, and 1.98 in. at Arrochar (Dumbartonshire).

Sunshine.—There was a considerable deficiency of sunshine in Ireland, the percentage of the average being 82 in Ireland, S. and 85 in Ireland, N. Elsewhere sunshine was variable, the percentages ranging from 95 in Scotland, N. to 111 in Scotland, E. The excess was greatest on the east coast of Scotland, where Aberdeen recorded 127 per cent. of the average and Montrose 125 per cent.

Fog.—Fog occurred frequently between the 19th and 30th. It was also reported at times outside this period and was thick at times locally at the Mouth of the English Channel on the 7th and during the early hours of the 8th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on ten nights. It was seen at many places in south and south-west Scotland on the night of the 10th—11th, as well as at Holyhead and at Boscombe Down, Wiltshire. A brilliant display was observed in Skye on the evening of the 30th. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 13 days and a sun pillar was observed at South Petherton, Somerset at sunset on the 26th.