

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

M.O. 639

Summary of observations compiled from returns of official stations and voluntary observers

Volume 75 Number 11

Published by HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

© Crown copyright 1958

November 1958—*Changeable at first; foggy and quiet with little rain during the latter part of the month*

During the first 13 days of November the weather was changeable with troughs moving eastwards across the country. Thereafter anticyclonic conditions gave quiet and foggy weather in most places with little rain.

A deep depression was situated near Iceland on the 1st and an associated warm front, moving eastwards across the British Isles, gave falls of more than 1 in. of rain in many midland and western districts and over 2 in. locally. The 2nd was also a wet day, the cold front of the system being slow moving with waves, and not clearing the south coast of England until the following morning. There were a few scattered showers on the 3rd after the passage of this front, but more continuous rain from another frontal system reached western districts during the afternoon of the 4th and fairly heavy falls were reported from south-west England that night associated with a southward extension of the surface trough. A further frontal system, with an open warm sector, moved eastward across the country on the 6th accompanied by occasional rain and the development of widespread fog. The cold front of the system was also slow moving and did not clear the English Channel, where fog and low cloud persisted all day.

On the 8th the upper flow became more meridional with a large ridge developing in mid-Atlantic and a trough forming in the region of the North Sea. With an anticyclone to the west of Ireland cooler north-westerly winds spread over the British Isles bringing showers to the west and north and mainly dry and sunny weather elsewhere. The following day the anticyclone moved a little south and a minor wave, which had formed on a warm front near Scotland, moved south-east across England to northern France giving slight rain in many places. On the 10th an upper ridge extended north-east across the British Isles and cut-off lows were formed in the trough over Scandinavia and the eastern North Sea. Surface winds over the country veered north and weather was generally fine and sunny during the day apart from scattered showers, but at night widespread fog developed.

On the 11th and 12th the upper ridge over the British Isles was displaced by a vigorous trough moving south-east from Iceland while the upper trough over Scandinavia and western Europe extended southwards to the Mediterranean. A milder airstream soon began to spread across Scotland as the anticyclone to the south-west of Ireland retreated further to the region of the Azores. Wind backed to the south-west and a frontal system, which brought rain and drizzle preceded locally by sleet to most central districts on the 11th, was occluded when it reached south-east England the following afternoon. Dense fog formed in a narrow belt behind it although thundery showers developed further west.

On the 13th and 14th an upper ridge from the Atlantic again spread north-eastwards across the British Isles leaving a large cut off low over the western Mediterranean, and by the 17th a high cell had become established over southern Scandinavia forming a block to the zonal flow. The predominant surface anticyclone was situated in the region of the Azores on the 14th and 15th with a ridge of high pressure extending north-eastwards over the British Isles, but on the 16th the anticyclone itself moved north-eastwards becoming centred over the southern North Sea on the 17th and subsequently over Europe where it persisted for most of the remainder of the month with a ridge of high pressure extending westwards to the British Isles. In this situation the fog of the 12th marked the beginning of a period of predominantly cloudy, fairly dry weather with widespread fog which lasted until the 30th. In some areas the fog persisted all day; this occurred on 15th–17th, 20th and almost every day

during the last week of the month with the Midlands and north-east England being mostly affected. Temperatures during this time were generally about or a little below average, but in the foggy areas it was cold; on the 26th there was continuous frost locally all day in northern England.

Pressure and Wind. Pressure was considerably above average everywhere, the excess ranging from 12.1 mb. at Dyce to 8.8 mb. at Felixstowe. Winds were mainly between west and south-west during the first week of the month, but were north-westerly on the 3rd and were generally from this direction on 8th–14th except for two days of south-westerly winds on the 11th and 12th. Light variable winds on the 15th became mainly southerly during the next two days and between south and south-east on 18th–24th. Winds were light and variable in the south and between south and south-west in the north and west on 25th–29th becoming generally between north and north-east on the 30th.

Temperature. Mean temperature exceeded the 1921–50 average by 0.1°F. in England and Wales, 1.4°F. in Scotland and 2.3°F. in Northern Ireland. The warmest part of the month in England and Wales was during the first week, but around the 15th in Scotland. Ground frost occurred at one place or another every day of the month in Scotland; on the 13th grass minimum temperature was 7°F. at Glenlivet and 9°F. at Dalwhinnie.

Extreme temperatures included:—(England and Wales) 63°F. at Newport, Mon., Paignton and Totnes on the 6th, 20°F. at Kielder Castle and Alwen on the 11th; (Scotland) 61°F. at a number of places on the 15th and 17th, 15°F. at Kincaig on the 13th; (Northern Ireland) 60°F. at Kilkeel on the 2nd and at Hillsborough on the 16th, 30°F. at Garvagh on the 29th and at Nutts Corner on the 29th and 30th.

Precipitation. The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the 1916–50 average was 58 in England and Wales, 38 in Scotland, where it was the driest November since 1945, and 55 in Northern Ireland. Less than 25 per cent. of the average occurred in east-coast districts from the Humber to the Scottish border, in the Lake District—Wharfedale area, and in the upper Tay and Spey Valleys. Rather more than the average was recorded in north Cornwall and in the upper Thames Valley. Absolute droughts were recorded in south-east England, East Anglia and north-west England during the latter part of the month. In Scotland it was the driest November at Braemar since 1867 and the driest at Balmoral since records began there in 1882.

Thunder was infrequent and was heard at about half a dozen places in England on the 3rd, 12th or 19th, but no thunder was heard in Scotland.

Snow or sleet was recorded in places in Scotland between the 8th and 13th and locally in England and Wales on the 11th, 12th and 13th.

Sunshine. The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921–50 average was 81 in England and Wales, 97 in Scotland and 75 in Northern Ireland. Over the greater part of the country sunshine totals were below the average, but places in the north Midlands and north-east England had more than the average; in Scotland in the Moray Firth area and north of Glen More, there was a large excess.

Fog. It was a very foggy month, the worst in Scotland for 25 years. Fog was reported from some place or other every day of the month; Rochdale, Mansfield and Gateshead had fog on 20, 22 and 24 days respectively. It was particularly widespread during the last week of the month and was dense locally during the afternoon on the 17th, 25th and 29th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena. The aurora was seen in Scotland on 16 nights.