

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

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

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AUGUST, 1928: Mainly fair in the south, unsettled in the north and west but with bright periods.

Fair, sunny weather prevailed generally in the south-east of England but in the west and north the weather was mainly unsettled with, however, considerable sunny periods. Thunderstorms and heavy rain within short periods were frequent and occurred in most districts.

Fine weather prevailed on the 1st in Ireland and Scotland, and on the 2nd extended over most of the British Isles. In southern England heavy rain occurred on the night of the 3rd to 4th and in the south-east on the 4th. Elsewhere on the 4th the weather was cloudy to fine and on the 5th sunshine amounts were almost everywhere good, while day temperatures about 70° F. or over were recorded in inland districts (78° F. at Ross-on-Wye, 76° F. at Birmingham, 75° F. at Renfrew, Sealand and S. Farnborough).

Associated with the passage along our north-west coasts of a vigorous secondary to a depression centred south of Iceland, heavy rain which began in the west of Ireland on the night of the 5th-6th spread to most districts except those in the south-east on the 6th and 7th; from about 3h. 30m. on the 6th to 7h. on the 7th, 62 mm. rain had fallen at Cahirciveen, 41 mm. fell at Douglas (I. of Man) during the 24 hours commencing 17h. on the 6th and 56 mm. at Borrowdale on the 7th. A temporary improvement followed and from the 8th to the 10th the weather was of the westerly type with bright intervals and showers. From the 11th to the 14th the weather was very unsettled. Rain fell generally at first and later the precipitation was of a more showery type. During the four days 11th-14th, Eskdalemuir registered 88 mm. of rain. Subsequently a ridge of high pressure spread over the country and was accompanied by a temporary improvement, 10 hours or more sunshine being recorded in many English districts on the 15th.

From the 19th to the 29th a belt of low pressure extended from the Atlantic across the British Isles to the North Sea; there was a renewal of unsettled weather, rain occurring in the south-west of Ireland on the 18th and spreading later to all districts; heavy falls occurred on the 20th, notably in the north of England, on the 22nd and 23rd and from the 25th to the 27th. Thunderstorms were of frequent occurrence. There were, however, many sunny periods and on several days very good sunshine records were obtained, notably over a wide area on the 25th, in southern districts on the 27th, in England and Ireland on the 28th and widely on the 29th. On the 30th an anticyclone moved eastwards across the British Isles and by September 1st was almost stationary over the southern half of the North Sea; mainly fine, quiet weather with some slight showers prevailed generally, over 12 hours' sunshine being recorded in many English districts on August 30th.

Pressure and Winds.—Monthly means of pressure at fixed hours were almost everywhere below the normal, low pressure continuing over the country generally from the 7th to the 15th and from the 19th to the 29th. The prevailing winds were between south and west and mainly light to moderate in force. A gale was recorded at Pendennis Castle on the 27th, during which the wind attained a velocity in a gust of 59 mi/hr.

Temperature.—Mean temperatures for August approximated to the normal, representative values for Districts in no case differing from the normal by more than 0.5° F. Days on which the maximum temperature rose well above the normal occurred in general between the 5th and 7th and about the 11th and 24th. The hottest day in most districts of Scotland and Ireland was the 5th and in most parts of England the 5th or 11th. The coolest day occurred generally about the 3rd, 16th and 21st. Minimum temperatures were usually more often above the normal than below; the coldest nights occurred generally at the beginning and end of the month and about the 19th.

The extreme temperatures for the month were:—England and Wales: 82° F. at London (Camden Square) on the 11th and 36° F. at Castleton (Yorks) on the 5th. Scotland: 79° F. at Perth on the 5th and 33° F. at Braemar on the 1st. Ireland: 77° F. at Lisburn (Antrim) on the 5th and 36° F. at Dublin (Phoenix Park) on the 1st.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal for the period 1881-1915 was 112; the values for the constituent countries were:—England and Wales, 100; Scotland, 120; Ireland, 132.

In England and Wales, precipitation in general was above the normal in the northern and western districts and below the normal in the central, southern and eastern districts. Large areas in the north had more than one and a half times the normal. Heavy falls occurred on individual days, notably in the south-east on the 3rd, in the north and north-west on the 20th, when many places had from 40 to 50 mm. and over and in the south-west on the 26th. Amongst the heaviest falls were 59 mm. at Rounton, 54 mm. at Aspatria and 52 mm. at Burnley on the 20th.

In Scotland precipitation was much below the normal in the extreme north-west and north, but elsewhere there was in general an excess, slight to moderate in the west but considerable in some eastern and southern areas. Heavy rain set in in the south of Scotland on the 6th and during the next two or three days the rain area gradually spread northwards. At Eskdalemuir the aggregate amount for the 5th and 6th was about 50 mm., while on the 7th Inveraray had 47 mm. On the 19th and 20th there were again rather heavy falls in the south-east and south, fairly widespread rains on the 23rd and some heavy falls from the 25th to the 29th, often due to thunderstorms and somewhat local in their greatest intensity; 39 mm. fell at Kingsbarns in a sharp thunderstorm on the 29th, but only about 25 mm. at St. Andrews, six miles distant. Flooding occurred at times, especially in the Border districts, and various heavy rains within short periods were locally destructive—as on the railway line between Brora and Loth in Sutherlandshire on the 12th.

Precipitation was above the normal in Ireland except along a short strip on the east coast, where there was a moderate deficiency. Heavy falls were recorded in many places on the 6th, about the 19th and on the 26th. Among the heaviest daily falls were 44 mm. at Cahirciveen on the 6th and 42 mm. at Armagh on the 29th, where the total for the month amounted to almost twice the normal.

Thunderstorms were of frequent occurrence, particularly from the 11th to 15th and from the 23rd to 29th. The observer at Barnstaple reports the occurrence of a severe storm on the 24th, when for 10 minutes frozen ice of various shapes, some as large as a sixpence and half-inch thick, fell with great violence, breaking vegetation and cutting off the stalks of corn, etc. Drifts were still visible under walls four hours after the storm. A violent thunderstorm occurred at Armagh on the 29th from 2.30 to 3.30 G.M.T. The rain and hail amounted to 42 mm. and the storm was followed by floods. The observer remarks that "the phenomenal character of the hailstorm of August 29th can be realized when it is stated that a good deal of hail was still lying on September 1st." The south and west of Scotland were visited by a severe storm on the 29th, which caused structural damage in the Dumfries area.

Sunshine.—Sunshine aggregates for August were in general above the normal in Ireland and in the central and eastern district of England and below the normal elsewhere, the most pronounced deficiency occurring in the Shetlands, where the mean daily duration of sunshine as recorded at Lerwick was 2.04 hr. below the normal and represented only 14 per cent. of the astronomically possible duration. Representative totals for Districts varied from 82 per cent. of the normal in Scotland E. to 119 per cent. in Ireland S. Good sunshine records were obtained on several days, notably from the 1st to the 4th, except in the south-east, widely on the 5th, when over 13 hours were recorded in many parts of England, in northern districts and in Ireland on the 8th, in the south-east of England on the 11th, in many parts on the 12th, in the south and east from the 13th to 15th, in many parts of England on the 25th and from the 27th to the 29th, and widely on the 30th.

Fog.—Fog was of relatively infrequent occurrence; it occurred in many eastern districts of Scotland on the 5th and in various places on the 10th, 11th, 22nd and 23rd.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos of 22° were observed at several stations; at Grayshott on as many as 13 days. Aurora was observed at Baltasound on the 26th. The Zodiacal Light was observed at Deerness on the 29th.