

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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NOVEMBER, 1935.—A wet month except in the north-west of Scotland.

The month was unsettled and wet, except in the north-west of Scotland. Serious flooding was reported over wide areas in England on the 17th and following days, due to the large total rainfall of the period 7th to 17th, culminating in the heavy rainfall of the 16th-17th.

The opening days were mild and unsettled, with pressure high over Russia, while Atlantic depressions approached our west and south-west coasts and secondaries moved north-east across the British Isles. Winds were mainly from some southerly point and temperature reached 65°F. locally in England on the 3rd. Squally winds prevailed, reaching gale force at some stations in the west and north, while rain occurred fairly generally and was accompanied in some instances by hail and thunder. Between the 4th and 6th, the depression centred south of Ireland, moved east and filled up and on the 7th and 8th a deep secondary developed over the Bay of Biscay and moved north-east and then north causing heavy rain in England on the 7th. During the next few days a large complex depression moved directly over the British Isles and filled up. Meanwhile a new disturbance in the far north moving south-east reached the Hebrides by the 12th and for a considerable period, low pressure persisted off our north-west coasts, while secondary depressions moved north-east across the British Isles, maintaining very unsettled conditions, particularly in England. The secondary which passed over England on the 17th and 18th was deep and caused local gales in England and widespread heavy rain.

A period of more settled weather prevailed from approximately the 22nd-25th under the influence of extensions of first the Scandinavian anticyclone and later the Atlantic anticyclone. Temperature was rather low from the 23rd to 25th.

General rain was again experienced in the west and north on the night of the 25th to 26th and thereafter very deep depressions situated northward of the British Isles maintained unsettled conditions for the remainder of the month, with rather squally south-westerly to westerly winds, reaching gale force at times at exposed places in the west and north. A widespread gale was experienced in England and Ireland on the 30th.

Pressure and Wind.—As was to be expected from the unsettled nature of the month, pressure was decidedly below the average generally. The deficiency at 7h. varied from 4.9 mb. at Lerwick to 11.2 mb. at Valentia Observatory.

Local gales occurred at times at exposed places in the south-west, west and north between the 2nd and 5th and in the north between the 25th and 29th. A widespread gale was experienced in England and Ireland on the 30th. Gales were also recorded in the south-west on the 11th and 13th, locally in Scotland on the 12th, at a few places in England on the 17th and 18th and in southern Ireland on the 19th. Among the highest speeds recorded in gusts were 78 m.p.h. at Bidston Observatory on the 30th and 75 m.p.h. at Valentia Observatory on the 3rd.

Temperature.—Broadly speaking, mean temperature somewhat exceeded the average in Great Britain and was slightly below the average in Ireland, the deviation varying from -1.2°F. in Ireland, N. to +2.3°F. in England, E. (See Table I).

The warmest spell occurred during the first few days, maximum temperatures reaching or exceeding 60°F. at many stations in England and at a few in Scotland on the 3rd. The nights as well as the days were very mild at this time: for example, at a number of places on the south coast of England temperature did not fall below 55°F. on the night of the 2nd to 3rd. A second mild spell was experienced around the 28th. The coldest period occurred, on

the whole, between the 23rd and 26th, during the mainly anti-cyclonic régime. Minima of 25°F. or below were registered at numerous stations on the mornings of the 24th or 25th. Low minima were recorded locally also on the 7th, 9th, 14th and 17th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 65°F. at Attenborough and Canterbury on the 3rd, 16°F. at Rickmansworth on the 25th; (Scotland) 61°F. at Turnberry on the 3rd and 4th, 19°F. at Eskdalemuir on the 24th; (Ireland) 59°F. at Armagh and Trinity College, Dublin, on the 3rd and 24°F. at Markree Castle, Foynes and Cork on the 25th and at Phoenix Park, Dublin, on the 17th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 154, the values for the constituent countries being England and Wales 179, Scotland 114 and Ireland 132.

A considerable deficiency occurred in the north-west of Scotland: in a few instances it amounted to more than 40 per cent of the average, while at Achnashellach (Ross and Cromarty) it equalled 63 per cent. The monthly totals fell somewhat below the average also at a few scattered stations in Cumberland, Westmorland, Renfrewshire and Morayshire. On the other hand, the excess was notable over most of England, the rainfall being more than twice the average over large areas in southern and central districts. The period 7th-20th was excessively wet in England and considerable damage was caused in many parts by floods. It was the wettest November at Shanklin (Isle of Wight), Wakefield, Cranwell and Calshot since observations were started in 1905, 1912, 1917 and 1871 respectively. (For this purpose the short period at Calshot is supplemented by the longer record at Southampton.)

Among heavy falls in 24 hours were:—

7th 49 mm. at St. Peter's Port, Guernsey.

14th 57 mm. at Holne (Devon), 56 mm. at Princetown, 53 mm. at Chewton Mendip (Somerset) and 49 mm. at St. Briavel's (Glos.).

16th 67 mm. at Creech (Dorset), 58 mm. at Holton Heath and 50 mm. at Bournemouth.

30th 56 mm. at Holne (Devon).

Hail occurred frequently on the west coast: it was reported on 10 days at Stornoway, 9 days at Valentia and 8 days at Blacksod Point. Local thunderstorms also occurred rather frequently, being recorded somewhere or other on about 11 days. They were rather widespread on the 12th and, in the west and north of Scotland, on the 26th. Snowfall was not appreciable in Scotland until the 30th, when most of the country was snow-covered for the first time this season.

Sunshine.—Broadly speaking, sunshine totals exceeded the average in Ireland, south-west England and the north of Scotland and were, for the most part, below the average elsewhere. The district values show that the deficiency was greatest in the eastern half of England and in the west of Scotland. The percentage of the average varied from 67 in England, N.E. to 120 in Ireland, S. and 127 in the Channel Islands.

Fog.—Local fog occurred at times, particularly between the 5th and 25th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was seen in the north of Scotland on the 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 18th, 27th, 29th and 30th. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 12 days and a sun pillar was observed at Worthy Down on the 21st.