

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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SEPTEMBER, 1935.—A very wet month; severe gales between the 16th and 19th.

The weather of the month was very unsettled and unusually wet, the general rainfall amounting to nearly 200 per cent. of the average.

During the first five days a depression, moving north-east across the British Isles to south-west Norway, caused heavy local rain and thunderstorms at times.

On the 6th, there was a general rise in pressure over the country and, during the ensuing days, conditions were governed by the southward extension of an anticyclone situated near Iceland. In most districts mainly fair weather prevailed until the 10th, but shallow depressions centred off our south-west coasts and over the Bay of Biscay caused some rain locally in Ireland and southern England on the 8th and 9th. Between the 10th and 12th, secondaries to an Atlantic depression gave rain in the west and north, but little or none was experienced in England (except in the south-west) until the night of the 12th-13th.

Thereafter a succession of Atlantic depressions caused continuously unsettled weather, except during the passage of intervening wedges of high pressure, such as those on the 23rd and 25th to 26th. Heavy rain, accompanied at times by thunder, occurred frequently during this period. The depressions, which crossed the country between the 16th and 17th and on the 19th deserve special comment. They were unusually deep and caused exceptionally severe and destructive gales for the time of year. Much damage and some loss of life were reported, both on land and sea.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was everywhere decidedly below the average, the deficiency at 7 h. varying from 4.8 mb., at Portland Bill to 10.2 mb. at Wick.

Perhaps the most important feature of the weather of the month was the remarkable period of strong westerly winds and gales, which prevailed from the 15th to 20th. The gale of the 16th-17th was exceptionally severe in the southern half of England. Mean hourly wind speeds of 66 m.p.h., 64 m.p.h. and 63 m.p.h. were recorded at the Scilly Isles, Pendennis Castle and the Lizard respectively late on the 16th, while among the highest gusts were 98 m.p.h. at Pendennis, 96 m.p.h. at Scilly and 92 m.p.h. at the Lizard on the 16th, and 88 m.p.h. at Cardington, 81 m.p.h. at Calshot and 80 m.p.h. at Larkhill on the 17th. The gale on the 19th, though not quite so severe in southern districts as the one on the 17th, was more widespread. A mean hourly wind speed of 59 m.p.h. and a gust of 82 m.p.h. were registered at Bell Rock Lighthouse on the 19th. Local gales were recorded at times outside the period 15th-20th.

Temperature.—The month was somewhat milder than usual, the deviation from the average varying from 0°F. in Scotland, W. to +1.1°F. in England, E., and England, S.W.

There were no very notable extremes. The highest day temperatures occurred for the most part between 11th and 14th, but it was also rather warm from the 1st to 3rd, around the 20th and on the 27th and 28th. In southern England the nights of the 21st-22nd and 27th-28th were unusually warm, minima exceeding 60°F. at many places. A brief cool spell occurred from the 24th to 26th and the night of the 7th to 8th was also rather cold.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 76°F. at Hunstanton on the 12th, 27°F. at Rickmansworth on the 26th;

(Scotland) 70°F. at Ruthwell on the 11th, 27°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 24th; (Ireland) 70°F. at Trinity College, Dublin, on the 12th, 13th and 14th, and at Foynes and Cork on the 9th, and 33°F. at Aldergrove on the 25th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 198, the values for the constituent countries being England and Wales 210, Scotland 172 and Ireland 196. A few places scattered over England and Wales received more than 300 per cent. of the average and at some stations in England and southern Ireland it was the wettest September on record. Rainfall was not only markedly excessive but unusually frequent, the number of rain-days in all districts being notably in excess of the average (see Table I).

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

- 1st. 55 mm. at Kinsale and 53 mm. at Borrowdale.
- 2nd. 81 mm. at Borrowdale and 73 mm. at Achnashellach (Ross and Cromarty).
- 3rd. 65 mm. at Achfary (Sutherlandshire).
- 16th. 55 mm. at Treherbert (Glamorgan), 50 mm. at Bethesda (Carnarvonshire) and 50 mm. at Newtownforbes (Longford).
- 18th. 67 mm. at Treherbert, 57 mm. at Borrowdale (most of which fell between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m.) and 53 mm. at Fort William.
- 19th. 64 mm. at Kinlochquoich (Inverness-shire) and 53 mm. at Tyndrum (Perthshire).
- 21st. 70 mm. at Oughtershaw Hall (Yorkshire), 58 mm. at Barnard Castle (Durham), 58 mm. at Middleton-in-Teesdale and 56 mm. at Durham and Houghall.

Local thunderstorms occurred on the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 12th-17th, 20th, 22nd-24th, 28th and 30th. The thunderstorm experienced in many parts of England and Wales in the early hours of the 22nd was remarkable for the abnormal fall of hail. In Northamptonshire much glass was broken by the hailstones, which were exceptionally large.

Sunshine.—The duration of bright sunshine was variable, but, broadly speaking, totals were below the average in the western half of the country and somewhat above the average in the eastern half. The district values (see Table I) show percentages of the average varying from 83 in Ireland, S., and 87 in England, S.W., to 108 in England, N.E. Among sunny days were the 6th, 7th, 23rd and 25th.

Fog.—Local fog occurred at times, particularly on the 12th, 20th, 21st, 24th and 26th-28th. It was rather widespread in the English Channel on the 21st, thick at the Scilly Isles on the 24th and at times on the south-west coast of England on the 26th and 27th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on the nights of the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 15th, 23rd, 24th and 30th. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 14 days. A line squall moved eastward across the country on the 14th, and was particularly severe at Sandbach, Cheshire.