

# Monthly Weather Report

## OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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### November 1952—Cold; considerable snowfall towards the end of the month.

The weather was unusually cold, particularly during the latter half of the month. Snow fell rather frequently towards the end of the month and was heavy in parts of England and Wales in the last four days. Sunshine exceeded the average on the whole, particularly in the north-west.

The first week was unsettled generally and rather mild in the south and west. On the 2nd a small disturbance moved from north of Ireland to the southern North Sea and on the 4th another depression off north-west Ireland and its associated troughs moved east. Rain occurred generally and was heavy locally on the 3rd and 4th. On the 5th a depression south of Iceland moved east-south-east and troughs moved across the British Isles giving further rain, with gales at exposed places in the north-west. Thereafter a deep depression moving south over the North Sea gave widespread, very severe north-westerly gales. The north-westerlies persisted until the 11th but temperature was still not very low. By the 13th a ridge of high pressure extended from the Atlantic across Scotland to Russia; this distribution was temporarily broken on the 14th and 15th by a small depression moving south to south-west England and giving some rain in most places and a thunderstorm at Guernsey. A good deal of fog occurred from the 14th to the 16th. On the 17th and 18th another weak disturbance moved south-south-west from the north of Scotland giving showers, which were wintry in some parts. Thereafter a depression over France moving west gave considerable rain in the south, and on the 20th and 21st a complex depression moving eastward over the country gave substantial rainfall and some wet snow. Local thunderstorms occurred on the 17th, 21st and 22nd. In the rear of this disturbance there was an outbreak of northerly winds of direct Arctic origin followed by a ridge of high pressure; snow lay 5 in. deep at Dyce, near Aberdeen on the 23rd, and exceptionally hard frost for November was registered on the mornings of the 24th, 25th and 26th. Subsequently a depression off south-west Ireland moved east-south-east and later turned east-north-east along the English Channel to west Germany giving considerable precipitation in southern districts. Heavy rain in Sussex caused serious flooding. In the closing days of the month a trough of low pressure over northern France spread northward giving further precipitation in the south on the 29th. During the last four days successive falls of snow occurred in a belt across the country covering part of East Anglia, the Midlands, and most of Wales. The snow lay up to 6 or more inches deep in places with heavy drifts, particularly on high ground.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure exceeded the average except in south-eastern districts, the deviation from the average at 9h. ranging from +7.4 mb. at Stornoway to -1.7 mb. at Lympne. Winds from between north-west and north-east predominated, southerly winds being infrequent. At Southport there were more north-easterly winds than in any November since 1919. Gales occurred locally at times mainly from the 3rd to 7th, 21st to 23rd, and 26th to 29th. The gale of the 6th-8th was widespread and very severe and caused considerable damage. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 85 at Bidston, 74 at Fleetwood, 73 at Tiree and 71 at Speke on the 6th and 69 at Felixstowe and Birmingham on the 7th.

**Temperature.**—Mean temperature was considerably below the average, the deviations from the average for the period 1906-35 being -3.1°F. in England and Wales, -3.3°F. in Scotland and -2.3°F. in Northern Ireland. As far as can be estimated it was the coldest November in Scotland since 1923 and in England and Wales since 1925. In particular, it was very cold during the latter half of the month. Day temperature rose to 55°F. or above at times during the

first week and also on the 10th in England and Wales. Air temperature fell to 20°F. or below widely on the morning of the 25th and locally on the 24th, 26th, 29th and 30th. Maximum temperatures were very low at times in some places; for example 23°F. at Dyce on the 25th and 24°F. at Renfrew on the 29th.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 62°F. at Totnes on the 1st, 10°F. at Kielder Castle on the 25th; (Scotland) 57°F. at Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh on the 1st, Falkirk on the 2nd and Largs on the 1st and 3rd, 5°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 25th; (Northern Ireland) 57°F. at Armagh on the 1st and 4th, 20°F. at Armagh and Garvagh on the 29th.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 118 over England and Wales, 77 over Scotland and 85 over Northern Ireland. In Great Britain more than the average occurred in north-east and extreme south-east Scotland, north-east England and south and east of an irregular line from the Humber to the Bristol Channel; more than twice the average was received locally in Essex. Less than the average occurred at most places elsewhere, while less than half the average was registered in south Inverness-shire and parts of Perthshire and Argyllshire and locally in Cumberland and the West Riding of Yorkshire. Lerwick, in the Shetland Islands, with 68 per cent. of its average, had its driest November for 15 years. In Northern Ireland a deficiency occurred except locally in Londonderry; percentages of the average ranged from 49 at Newtownbutler, County Fermanagh to 109 at Garvagh, County Londonderry.

Among the heaviest falls in 24 hours were:—

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|------|---|
| 3rd  | 2.91 in. at Glenquoich and 2.90 in. at Kinlochquoich, both in Inverness-shire.        |
| 4th  | 3.63 in. at Borrowdale, Cumberland and 3.04 in. at Blaenau Festiniog, Merionethshire. |
| 27th | 2.04 in. at Heathfield, Sussex.   |

Snow or sleet showers occurred rather frequently during the latter half of the month. Snow lay 4-6 in. deep in Aberdeenshire on the 23rd and 2-4 in. at Glenmore Lodge and Glenlivet from the 23rd to 30th. During the last four days there were successive falls of snow in a belt across the country covering parts of East Anglia, the Midlands and most of south Wales. The snow lay on the ground and level snow was 10 in. deep at Whipsnade, in the Chilterns on the 30th, with drifts up to 8 ft. in the vicinity. At Tredegar, Monmouthshire it lay 6 in. deep from the 27th to the 30th and on the evening of the 29th a train ran into a 10 ft. drift at Pen-y-Wern.

Thunder occurred locally on the 3rd, 5th, 10th, 17th, 18th, 21st and 22nd; it was most widespread on the 22nd.

**Sunshine.**—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for 1906-35 was 116 over England and Wales, 123 over Scotland and 85 over Northern Ireland. A large excess above the average occurred at some places in Great Britain, particularly in the north-west; at Southport it was the sunniest November since records began in 1896. Less than the average was registered at a number of places in south and east England, north Wales and east Scotland. In Ireland it was generally less than the average.

**Fog.**—Local fog occurred rather frequently, mainly on the 1st, 2nd, 9th, 12th-18th and 21st-30th. It was rather widespread from the 14th to 16th and persistent in places on the 15th. It was also widespread and persistent locally on the 29th; at Renfrew it persisted again on the 30th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—The aurora was observed in Scotland on five nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on eight days.

\*NOTE: As from the January 1953 issue, the price of the Monthly Weather Report will be 2/- net; Annual Summary, 4/- net; Annual Subscription including Annual Summary and Introduction, 30/- post free.