

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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September 1952—Unusually cold.

The month was unusually cold and mainly dull except in parts of west Scotland and south-west England. It was wet over most of north Scotland and excessively wet in north-east England and parts of south and east England.

In the opening days pressure was high off our south-west coasts with a ridge extending across France, while a depression off east Iceland moved east. Warm, rather sunny weather prevailed for the most part though showers occurred, chiefly in the north and west. In the early hours of the 3rd a small depression moved across south Scotland giving moderate rainfall in south Scotland, north England and north Ireland. In the rear of this depression cold northerly winds, with showers and local thunderstorms, prevailed for some days. On the 7th a shallow depression formed over the western English Channel and moved east causing widespread thunderstorms and heavy local rain in the south. Subsequently a depression moved south over the western part of Great Britain giving considerable rain, particularly in the south-west, and thunderstorms in places. Further rain or showers and local thunderstorms occurred in England and Wales on the 11th and 12th. Meanwhile an anticyclone was situated off our north-west coasts and this system maintained dry weather over most of the country from the 13th to the 15th. On the 16th a depression near Iceland moved east to west Norway and by the 17th cold northerly winds were renewed over the British Isles, with showers and bright periods. On the 20th and 21st a depression south-east of Iceland moved east-south-east while a trough moved south-east over the British Isles giving general rain, but on the 22nd and 23rd an anticyclone off our south-west coasts was associated with a short fair spell over most of England and Wales, temperature reaching 70°F. locally on the 23rd. Heavy rainfall occurred, however, in north and west Scotland on the 23rd. On the 24th a very deep depression approached north-west Scotland and subsequently moved east-south-east to the North Sea. Heavy rain occurred in some parts from the 24th to the 26th and strong winds were general with gales at exposed places. Behind this depression north-westerly winds again prevailed and cool unsettled weather was maintained until the end of the month. On the 28th and 29th a depression moved from south-west of Ireland over England; rainfall was heavy in places, particularly in north-east England, and thunder occurred locally. Another depression moving east-north-east along the English Channel on the 30th gave widespread and prolonged rain in the south.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average except in the north-west; at 9h. the deviation from the average ranged from +1.0 mb. at Tiree to -3.5 mb. at Gorleston. Winds from some northerly point were frequent. Gales occurred locally on the 1st, 2nd, 16th, 17th, 23rd-26th and 30th; they were most widespread on the 24th-26th. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 56 at Lerwick on the 16th, 55 at Tiree on the 24th, 68 at Bidston, 59 at Kete, 58 at Holyhead and 56 at Southport on the 25th, 56 at Speke on the 26th and 62 at Scilly on the 30th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was below the average for the period 1906-35 by 3.9°F. in England and Wales, 3.2°F. in Scotland and 3.7°F. in Northern Ireland. As far as can be estimated, in England and Wales the mean temperature equalled that of the previous very cold September of 1912, while in Scotland and Northern Ireland it was the lowest for September since 1918. At Oxford it was the coldest September in a record going back to 1815. Rather

warm days occurred on the 1st-3rd and around the 23rd. The weeks ending on the 13th and 20th and the last few days were very cold.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 75°F. at Southend and Folkestone on the 1st, 28°F. at Horley on the 19th and at Kielder Castle, Lincoln and Thetford on the 20th; (Scotland) 69°F. at Carnoustie on the 23rd, 27°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 6th, 10th and 15th and at Eskdalemuir on the 20th; (Northern Ireland) 68°F. at Castlerock and Garvagh on the 23rd, 30°F. at Aldergrove on the 28th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 148 over England and Wales, 98 over Scotland and 74 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland more than the average occurred in northern districts (except on the north-east coast from Wick round to Nairn) and locally in the west and extreme south-east; less than the average occurred elsewhere, notably in parts of Perthshire, Angus and Fife where less than half the average was registered. In England and Wales less than the average occurred over a central area in England and locally in Lancashire and south Wales. In contrast more than twice the average occurred in Dorset, at a number of places on the south-east and east coasts from Calshot to Felixstowe and over much of Durham and the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire; nearly three times the average was received at Scarborough. In Northern Ireland somewhat more than the average occurred in the north of the Province and less than the average elsewhere, percentages of the average at individual stations ranging from 50 at Armagh to 118 at Garvagh.

Among heavy falls in 24 hours were:—

- 7th 2.49 in. at Deal Waterworks, Kent.
- 9th 3.09 in. at Beaminster, Dorset.
- 23rd 3.98 in. at Erracht, Glen Loy, and 3.95 in. at Kinlochquoich, both in Inverness-shire.
- 24th 3.60 in. at Kinlochquoich, Inverness-shire and 2.87 in. at Glenleven, Argyllshire.
- 25th 3.65 in. at Kinlochquoich, Inverness-shire and 2.43 in. at Watendlath, Cumberland.
- 28th 2.28 in. at Kildale, North Riding of Yorkshire.

Thunderstorms occurred locally on the 1st-12th, 18th, 21st and 25th-28th; they were most widespread on the 4th, 7th, 10th, 25th and 28th. Thunder was most frequent in southern districts; in Scotland it occurred on two days only, name the 1st and 3rd, while no reports of thunder were received from Northern Ireland.

Snow or sleet showers were recorded locally at times in Scotland during the cold spells.

Sunshine.—The duration of bright sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1906-35 was 86 in England and Wales, 91 in Scotland and 92 in Northern Ireland. Totals were below the average almost everywhere except locally in some western districts, notably parts of west Scotland and south-west England. At Oban and Helensburgh it was the sunniest September since 1911, while at Gordon Castle it was the dullest since 1908.

Fog.—There was little fog but it occurred locally at times, chiefly in the early morning, and mainly on the 1st, 9th-11th, 13th, 14th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 22nd-24th and 28th-30th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 12 nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 13 days. Two waterspouts were seen in the English Channel from Teignmouth on the 9th.