

SUMMARY of the OBSERVATIONS made at the STATIONS included in the DAILY and WEEKLY WEATHER REPORTS, for the CALENDAR MONTH,

MARCH 1893.

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General Summary.—The weather of March was exceedingly fine and dry in all but the extreme northern and north-western parts of the kingdom, where showers were rather frequent. Snow or sleet fell, however, in many places on the 16th and 17th, after which there was an almost entire absence of precipitation over the eastern, central, and southern parts of England. Pressure and temperature were in excess of the average; the winds were mainly Westerly or South-westerly; rainfall was very deficient, especially over England and the south of Ireland, and bright sunshine was unusually prevalent in nearly all parts of the kingdom.

Pressure.—*Mean for the month at 8 a.m.* ranged from between 30·15 ins. and 30·17 ins. over the greater part of the English Channel to about 30·00 ins. in the south of Scotland and extreme north of Ireland, and to 29·78 ins. in the Shetlands; the general distribution being in close agreement with the normal. The mean values were, however, above the average* in all but the extreme northern parts of the kingdom, and as the excess was greatest (about 0·2 in.) on our southern coasts, the gradient was steeper than usual, especially over Scotland. *Highest values* were recorded generally on the 25th, when the barometer rose to 30·4 ins. or more in all but the extreme northern districts. *Lowest values* were observed as a rule on the 15th or 16th; in Scotland the mercury fell to between 28·9 ins. and 29·3 ins., but in the extreme southern parts of the kingdom it did not go below 29·7 ins., similar values being recorded in the latter districts on the 1st of the month. *Range* was small (not exceeding three quarters of an inch) in the south, and moderate over the kingdom generally, but rather large (an inch and a half, or more) in the extreme north.

Depressions.—The tracks of the depressions lay as a rule well to the northward of our islands, the only well-defined system which advanced immediately over us being observed on the 1st, when a disturbance of moderate depth moved eastwards across Scotland.

Anticyclones.—Two such systems were reported. The first which was of moderate size and of short duration spread over our islands from the westward on the 5th and afterwards moved away to the south-eastward. The second advanced from the Atlantic on the 18th and remained with us until nearly the close of the month. The system was comparatively small at first but gradually increased in size until it embraced nearly the whole of Europe.

Winds were mostly from the Westward or South-westward, but on our south-west coasts they were somewhat variable,—a large per-centage of breezes from the Eastward being recorded. Gales were frequent in the north and north-west, the total number amounting to 7 at Liverpool, 8 at Mullaghmore, 9 at Stornoway, and 13 at Aberdeen. On our south-west, south, and east coasts there were, speaking generally, not more than one or two days with gales.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 51° in the Channel Islands and between 48 and 50 on our extreme south-west coast, generally to between 43 and 45 on the east coasts of Great Britain, and to 43° or less in the north of Scotland. The general distribution showed a fair agreement with the normal, but the actual values were everywhere above the average,* the excess being large (3° to 5°) in most districts, but somewhat small (under 3°) on the Scotch coasts. *Highest readings* were recorded in the northern parts of the kingdom on the 24th or 25th, but in the more central and southern districts between the 29th and 31st. At many of the inland stations in England and Ireland the thermometer exceeded 65°, the highest readings of all being 71° at Llandovery and 70° at Cambridge. *Lowest readings* were observed mainly between the 17th and 19th, when sharp frost occurred in nearly all parts of Great Britain, as well as in central Ireland; at Lairg the sheltered thermometer fell to 16°, at Braemar to 17°, and at Cirencester to 19°. *Range* was large, amounting to over 40° in many parts of Great Britain, to 48° at Lairg and Llandovery, and to 49° at Loughborough. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·20 in. and less over central England, and 0·22 in. and less in most of the eastern and central parts of Great Britain to between 0·30 in. and 0·32 in. on our extreme south-west coasts. *Relative Humidity* varied from 76 per cent. at Aberdeen, 77 per cent. at Jersey, and 79 per cent. at Liverpool to 95 per cent. at Stornoway.

Rainfall was very deficient, the total amount being less than one quarter of the average* over a considerable portion of England, as well as in the south of Ireland, and less than one half of the normal in many other parts of the kingdom. The largest aggregates were 9·1 ins. at Glencarron, 4·4 ins. at Fort William, and 3·5 ins. at Laudale; the smallest were 0·12 in. at Roches Point, 0·18 in. at Scarborough, Oxford, and Prawle Point, and 0·23 in. at Dungeness, less than half an inch was reported at most stations situated in the central and southern parts of England, as well as in some of the southern Irish districts. In many parts of our eastern, midland, and southern counties there was no rain at all after the middle of the month.

Bright Sunshine was in excess of the average* at all stations excepting Stornoway, Markree Castle, and Valencia, the difference from the normal being in most places very considerable. More than 50 per cent. of the possible duration was recorded over the eastern, central, and southern parts of England generally, the highest values of all being 63 at Guernsey and 61 at Westbourne and Jersey. The smallest per-centage values were 17 at Fort Augustus, 24 at Markree Castle, and 25 at Stornoway.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 20 years, 1871–90; *Rainfall* for the 25 years, 1866–90; and *Bright Sunshine* for the 10 years, 1881–90.