

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE. To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses: YORK HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON W.C.2; 120 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH 2; 39-41 KING STREET, MANCHESTER 2; 1 ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF; 80 CHICHESTER STREET, BELFAST; or through any bookseller.

VOL. 59. No. 11.

ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE METEOROLOGICAL COMMITTEE

Price 1s. 0d. net, Post-free 1s. 1d.
 Annual Subscription, including
 Annual Summary and Introduction,
 15s. 0d. post-free.

NOVEMBER, 1942.—Quiet and dry.

The weather of November was quiet, except in the extreme north of Scotland, and dry apart from a fairly large area in eastern England.

Low pressure to the south and east of the British Isles was associated with heavy rain and local thunderstorms in the eastern districts of England on the 1st, while mainly fair conditions prevailed in Scotland and Ireland. On the 2nd and 3rd a depression over the Bay of Biscay moved quickly north-east and caused further rain, particularly in England. Heavy rain was also reported in a thunderstorm at Point of Ayre, Isle of Man, on the night of the 2nd-3rd. Rain in Ireland and the Hebrides on the 5th was associated with a trough of low pressure extending from a depression near Iceland to the south-west of Ireland. Meanwhile a depression over the western English Channel moving north-east caused considerable rain in England. On the 6th and 7th a deep depression off south-west Iceland moved north-east and an associated trough of low pressure moved east over the British Isles; general rain occurred, heavy in the north and west on the 6th, and showery weather prevailed on the 7th. An anticyclone off our south-west coasts moving eastward maintained fair weather in most districts on the 8th and 9th, but the eastward passage over the country of a trough of low pressure was associated with rain in the west and north on the 9th and 10th. A wedge of high pressure moving south-east over the British Isles on the 11th maintained fair weather, apart from fog, over the eastern half of England. Another trough of low pressure moved slowly eastward over the country in the rear of the ridge and caused some rain in most districts.

Subsequently an anticyclone advanced from the Atlantic and anticyclonic conditions were maintained for the most part until the 27th, though depressions in the far north were associated with considerable rain in the Shetlands on the 13th and 15th and gales in the north from the 14th-16th and on the 19th. On the 21st the anticyclone was centred north-westward of the British Isles and pressure was low to the north-east: a cold northerly air current flowed over the British Isles. By the following morning the anticyclone had spread in over Ireland and screen frost was widespread in Great Britain on the 22nd, and in England and Ireland on the 23rd. On the 27th the anticyclone receded westward and subsequently depressions moved south-east from the neighbourhood of Iceland; there was some rainfall and local wintry precipitation.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure substantially exceeded the average, the excess at 7 h. ranging from 9.5 mb. at Lympne to 15.1 mb. at Tiree. The mean pressure chart shows the highest pressure westward of Ireland and the lowest north of the Shetlands (see chart I). In Scotland winds from between south-west and north-west were more frequent than usual. At many places apart from the extreme north, the month was much quieter than the average, the "run of the wind" being only 61 per cent. of the average at Oxford, 63 per cent. at Kew Observatory, 79 per cent. at Aberdeen, but 109 per cent. at Lerwick. No gales were recorded in Northern Ireland or England and Wales, except at St. Ann's Head on the 6th, when a gust of 57 m.p.h. was also registered. Gales occurred on a number of occasions in the north of Scotland, for example on the 6th, 14th-16th, 19th and 27th. The stormiest periods were the 6th and the 14th-16th; in the gale on the 6th winds gusted up to 50 m.p.h. in Edinburgh and near Glasgow and to 60 m.p.h. in Orkney and 70 m.p.h. in Shetland. Gusts of about 75 m.p.h. and 85 m.p.h. were registered in Orkney and Shetland respectively on the 15th.

Temperature.—Broadly speaking mean temperature over the British Isles was below the average except in the north of Scotland, the deficiency being greatest in the south. The first five days were cold generally and severe frost was also widely registered in Scotland on the 22nd and in England and Wales on the 22nd and 23rd. Screen minima of 20°F. or below were recorded locally in Scotland on the 3rd, 4th and 22nd and in England and Wales on the 22nd and 23rd. Ground frosts occurred very frequently. Among the warmest days were the 6th-11th, 14th-15th and 18th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 60°F. at Fowey on the 8th and 10th, 18°F. at Appleby and Rhayader on the 22nd and at Totnes on the 23rd; (Scotland) 62°F. at Stonehaven on the 14th; 14°F. at Braemar on the 4th; (Northern Ireland) 54°F. at Ballyhalbert on the 6th, 9th and 15th, 26°F. at Aldergrove on the 2nd and at Garvagh on the 3rd, 11th and 12th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 55 over England and Wales, 34 over Scotland and 28 over Northern Ireland. More than the average rainfall was confined to a fairly large area in eastern England covering most of Lincolnshire and East Anglia and part of the east Midlands. Less than 25 per cent. was received over most of east Scotland and extreme north-east England, much of south-west Scotland, most of Wales and parts of Devon and Cornwall. In Northern Ireland, less than 25 per cent. occurred in the south-east of the Province, the percentages of the average ranging from 18 at Armagh and Aldergrove to 58 at Londonderry. At Armagh Observatory it was the driest November in a record back to 1854. Over Scotland as a whole, with the exception of 1937, it was the driest November on record. At Aberdeen the total was the lowest for November since observations were started in 1871.

Local falls of 1 inch or more were reported daily from the 1st-6th inclusive.

Local thunderstorms were reported from the 1st-3rd and on the 7th.

Sleet or snow occurred locally in the Midlands on the 1st, north-west Ireland on the 3rd and north-east and east England on the 21st. In Scotland snow or sleet were reported on 10 days; falls were widespread, though not heavy, on the 29th and 30th.

Sunshine.—The distribution was variable, but sunshine exceeded the average over most of Scotland, except the north-west and north, Northern Ireland and many places in southern England. At most stations in northern and eastern England and the Midlands there was a deficiency. The mean daily sunshine ranged from less than 1 hour in the Shetlands, the western Highlands and Skye and a small area covering part of Lancashire and adjacent places in the Midlands to more than 3 hours in the neighbourhood of the Firth of Tay, extreme south-west Ireland, Cornwall and the south-east coast of England from Ventnor to Eastbourne.

Fog.—Fog developed frequently, particularly inland in England and especially in large towns. It was persistent locally at times, notably on the 2nd-5th, 11th-12th and 14th. The London area was enveloped in a particularly dense fog belt on the 11th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 15 nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on seven days. A mock moon showing prismatic colour and part of the paraselenic circle were seen at Whitley Bay, near Tynemouth on the 21st. A pale green moon was observed in south-west England on the 17th.