

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

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

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JUNE 1932.—Dry.

The outstanding feature of the weather of the month was its pronounced dryness, the general precipitation over the British Isles being only slightly more than half the June normal. The month was sunny in the west, but, except locally in the south of Ireland, was not remarkable for any great warmth.

At the beginning of the month an area of high pressure over Greenland and Iceland extended over the northern part of the British Isles; the 2nd was generally sunny, and high day temperatures were recorded in western Scotland, but the eastern districts were cooler. A depression on the Atlantic moving south-east caused heavy rain locally on the 3rd on the south coast and Channel Isles. On the 4th polar air coming down the North Sea caused cool weather; maximum day temperatures were low in many places, notably 50° at Lympne. The anticyclone over Iceland then moved southward and finally eastward, and temperature gradually rose; good sunshine records were obtained on the 9th and 10th, and high day temperatures were recorded on the 11th in eastern England. From the 10th to 11th a shallow trough of low pressure crossed the British Isles and gave rise to local thunderstorms.

On the 12th an anticyclone south-west of Iceland moved eastwards over the British Isles, and later the Azores anticyclone extended north-east, and a spell of dry, sunny weather occurred generally, though there was some rain with thunder in the west of Ireland on the 15th. Day temperatures were high in western Scotland on the 17th, and locally in southern Ireland on the 17th to 19th. About the 19th a depression spread eastwards from the Baltic, causing an incursion of cool air from the North Sea, day temperatures were low on the 19th and 20th except in Ireland, but little rain fell, and there was good sunshine in parts of the west and south. From the 21st most of the British Isles came under the influence of an anticyclone to the south-west of Ireland and temperatures rose; depressions, however, crossing Iceland, rendered the weather in northern districts somewhat unsettled.

The fair spell broke in England on the 27th, when a secondary trough to a deep depression near the Faroes moved across the country; heavy rain and thunderstorms occurred locally on the 27th and 28th. In front of a depression west of Ireland, heavy rain fell in the south-west on the 29th and spread to all districts on the 30th. Many stations recorded more than an inch of rain on the 30th, and some stations more than 3 inches—namely Holne, Devon, 3.28 in., S. Brent, Devon, 3.70 in.; St. Briavels, Glos., 3.20 in.; Llyn Fawr, Glamorgan, 3.16 in., and Treherbert, Glamorgan, 3.15 in.

Pressure and Winds.—Except at the beginning of the month and during the last 6 days, anticyclonic conditions predominated. Few depressions crossed the country during the month, and in all districts monthly mean pressures were from 1 mb. to 3 mb. above the normal. Winds were mostly light, and were frequently from between north and east. At Southport the duration of easterly winds was more than twice the normal and of south-westerly winds less than half the normal.

Temperature.—Monthly mean temperatures were above the normal in the west, conspicuously so in the south of Ireland; at Killarney and Kilkenny the maximum temperature averaged 70° F. Only one other station, Cullompton, recorded so high a

value. There were two short spells of a cold northerly type of weather about the 5th and 19th, maximum temperatures failing to reach 60° F. even in some southern places on the 4th, 5th and 6th and on the 19th and 20th. The warmest days occurred about the 16th and 26th, 80° F. being reported locally in the west of Scotland on the 17th, and in southern Ireland on the 17th, 18th and 19th, and in England on the 27th.

Extreme temperatures for the month were:—(England and Wales) 82° F. at London (Camden Square) on the 27th, 30° F. at Rhayader on the 7th; (Scotland) 80° F. at Paisley, Renfrew and Ruthwell on the 17th, 27° F. at Dalwhinnie on the 6th; (Ireland) 80° F. at Kilkenny on the 18th and Killarney on the 17th and 19th; 33° F. in Dublin (Phoenix Park) on the 5th.

Precipitation.—In contrast to the abnormal wetness of May, June was remarkable for its dryness. In many parts of the country the rainfall on the 30th June to 1st July accounted for the greater part of the month's total. The observer at Copdock reports that had it not been for the rain which set in after midnight on the 30th, it would have been the driest June in over 30 years' records. At Cheltenham there was an absolute drought of 29 days (30th May to 27th June), and one of 28 days at Dunbar (29th May to 25th June), Harrogate (30th May to 26th June) and Halstead (2nd to 29th June).

In a coastal strip extending from Hants to Cornwall precipitation exceeded the normal, largely as the result of heavy falls during the night of 30th June to 1st July; in all other parts of the country there was a pronounced deficiency, and over large areas in the north-east of Scotland and the east of England less than one-quarter of the average June rainfall was recorded. At Nairn the month's total, 3 mm., or only 7 per cent. of the average June figure, was the smallest June total since at least 1866.

Thunderstorms occurred in most parts of the country on from one to three days. Severe thunderstorms, accompanied by heavy rain, occurred in N. Cornwall on the 3rd, and at Blacksod Point on the 15th.

The general precipitation of the British Isles, expressed as a percentage of the normal for the standard period 1881–1915, was 57; the values for the constituent countries were:—England and Wales, 59; Scotland, 49; Ireland, 60.

Sunshine.—Sunshine aggregates exceeded the normal in western districts, and were deficient in most parts of north-eastern Scotland and eastern England. In coastal districts in Devon and Cornwall the mean daily duration of bright sunshine exceeded 9 hours, amounting to as much as 10.3 hours at Newquay. Representative totals for districts, expressed as a percentage of the normal for the period 1881–1915, ranged from 97 per cent. in England N.E. and E. to 120 per cent. in the Channel Isles and Scilly.

Fog.—Fog occurred in coastal districts and in eastern districts of Great Britain during the first three days, about the 13th and on the 24th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Parhelia and an upper arc of contact to the halo of 22° were observed at Oxford on the 29th.