

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

Vol. 66 No. 11

 ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE METEOROLOGICAL COMMITTEE
 PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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November, 1949 - Unsettled and rather wet on the whole; mainly mild.

The weather of the month was unsettled and rather wet on the whole, though there were some areas, particularly in central and north Scotland, East Anglia and Northern Ireland, where rainfall was somewhat below the average. It was mainly rather mild, especially in the north and north-west.

During the opening days a wedge of high pressure over the southern districts of the British Isles moved slowly south, while troughs of low pressure associated with a depression near Iceland moved across the northern districts. Cold fair weather, apart from mist and fog, prevailed in the south-east, while rain occurred at times in the west and north.

Subsequently very unsettled conditions set in and persisted until the 13th. On the 4th a small depression developed in mid-Atlantic and moved rapidly north-east, deepening as it moved. In the British Isles rain, heavy in places, occurred on the 4th and 5th, while winds were strong reaching gale force locally. On the 6th another depression developed in the Atlantic and moved quickly south-east to France; this also deepened as it moved and there were showers with local hail and thunder in the British Isles. Again on the 8th and 9th a deep Atlantic depression moved north-east to the south-west of Iceland and then turned east; rain occurred fairly generally while winds were strong in the west on the 9th, with gales at exposed places. On the 11th and 12th a disturbance off north-west Ireland moved east-north-east and then east; widespread gales occurred on the 12th, when a strong west-north-west gale affected the Irish Sea and the British Channel; rainfall was heavy locally on the 12th. An improvement, apart from fog, took place in eastern districts on the 14th and 15th with the eastward passage of a wedge of high pressure, but a trough over western districts caused further rain there. Subsequently the trough moved very slowly east giving more rain in the western half of the country on the 16th and general and rather heavy rain on the 17th with gales in the west and north. Thereafter another less vigorous trough moved slowly east over the country; rain or showers occurred, the rainfall being moderately heavy on the 20th. By the 21st a new deep depression was situated west of Scotland, where it remained almost stationary until the 23rd, while troughs moved over the British Isles. Showery weather prevailed, with bright periods locally and gales at exposed stations. On the 23rd the main depression moved east and filled while a secondary off south-west Ireland moved to France. Subsequently a complex area of low pressure was established over France and the south Baltic. Rain occurred at times in most parts of the British Isles being heavier on the east coast of Britain; it was mainly dull, with north-east to north winds. Thereafter, on the 28th and 29th, a ridge of high pressure associated with an anticyclone on the Atlantic moved south over this country. Meanwhile depressions in the far north moved north-east or east. Occasional rain occurred in the north but only slight, scattered rain in the south. Some sunny periods were recorded at most stations on the 28th, in the south on the 29th and in the south-west also on the 30th.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average generally, the greatest deficiency at 9h. (7.0 mb. or more) occurring in the north-west. Broadly speaking the predominating winds were between south and west, with short spells of northerly winds intervening. Local gales occurred rather frequently, mainly on the 3rd–5th, 9th–13th, 15th–17th, 20th–23rd and 29th–30th. The gale on the 12th was widespread and severe, while the one on the 21st was severe in the south of England. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 71 at Bidston, 69 at Fleetwood and 68 at Point of Ayre on the 12th and 70 at Dover on the 21st.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average by 0.9°F.

in England, 1.7°F. in Scotland and 1.0°F. in Northern Ireland, the deviations for the districts ranging from +0.5°F. in England, E. to +1.9°F. in Scotland, W. The opening days were cold in the south-east but mild in the north; it was rather cold over much of England also from the 14th–20th and around the 29th. In Scotland cold spells included the 6th–7th and 18th–20th. On the other hand the 4th and 9th–11th were among the warmest days in England and Wales, while among warm days in Scotland the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 15th and 16th may be mentioned.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 62°F. at Aber on the 8th and at Aber, Cannington and Dawlish on the 9th, 21°F. at Thetford on the 1st; (Scotland) 58°F. at Gordon Castle on the 3rd and Achnashalach on the 16th, 13°F. at Glenlivet on the 7th; (Northern Ireland) 56°F. at Armagh, Castle Archdale and Castlerock on the 15th and at Castlerock on the 4th, 26°F. at Garvagh on the 20th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 125 over England and Wales, 111 over Scotland and 101 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland less than the average occurred over a large part of the mainland in the north and central districts and in the extreme south-west. In a narrow strip extending from Dornoch Firth to the border of Inverness-shire and Perthshire less than 75 per cent. of the average was received. More than the average occurred elsewhere and more than 150 per cent. locally in the east, south-east and over part of Argyllshire. In England and Wales less than the average occurred locally in Northumberland, over most of the area extending from the Wash to the Thames Estuary and at a few isolated places elsewhere, while more than 175 per cent. was registered locally in the Lake District and Cardiganshire and in a narrow belt from the Humber to Manchester. In Northern Ireland less than 75 per cent. occurred over part of the south-east of the Province increasing to more than 125 per cent. in the west and north-west.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—4th 3.58 in. at Cona-glen (Argyllshire), 3.50 in. at Cwm Dyli (Snowdon), 3.30 in. at Kingairloch (Argyllshire) and 3.16 in. at Kinlochourn (Inverness-shire). 12th 3.44 in. at Troutbeck (Cumberland), 3.26 in. at Watendlath Farm and 2.49 in. at Burnhope Reservoir (Co. Durham). 17th 2.30 in. at Thirlmere (Cumberland). Hail occurred rather frequently, particularly in the west and north.

Thunderstorms occurred locally on the 3rd, 5th, 6th, 8th–10th, 13th, 17th, 19th–21st and 27th–28th.

Snow or sleet showers occurred locally in Scotland on the 5th–8th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 22nd, 26th and 30th.

Sunshine.—Broadly speaking sunshine exceeded the average in south and east England, locally in the Midlands and at a few places on the coast of Scotland. It also somewhat exceeded the average in Northern Ireland. Elsewhere it was below the average for the most part. The mean daily duration ranged from less than 1 hour over much of central Scotland and in an area in north-west England from Keswick to Buxton to more than 3 hours locally on the south coast of England.

Fog.—Fog developed rather frequently, mainly on the 1st, 2nd, 9th, 11th, 14th–16th, 18th–20th and 23rd–29th. It was rather persistent in the London area on the 15th and 16th. It was widespread and rather persistent locally on the 18th–20th and 23rd and in parts of Ireland on the 24th and 25th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 12 nights; the display on the 19th–20th was seen as far south as the Scillies. Solar haloes were noted at Oxford on seven days.