

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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June, 1949 - Dry and Sunny

The weather of the month was characterised by a deficiency of rainfall and a substantial excess of sunshine. It was warm on the whole, particularly during the last ten days.

In the opening days of the month depressions were situated off the west of Scotland, while troughs of low pressure moved north-east over the British Isles; rain fell in most places and thunderstorms occurred rather widely, particularly on the 1st-3rd. On the 5th a wedge of high pressure moved east across the country and fair, sunny weather prevailed though rain occurred locally in the west and north later. Thereafter, on the 6th, a depression moved east-north-east off our northern seaboard, while an associated trough crossed the British Isles giving gales in the northern half of the country and slight rain except in south-east and east England. On the 7th a complex area of low pressure moved over the country giving scattered thunderstorms. By the 9th an anticyclone was situated over Scotland; this system moved away east and was followed by weak troughs of low pressure; fair weather prevailed in Ireland and England and Wales but rain occurred later in North Scotland. Further rain fell in the northern half of the country on the 10th but fair weather persisted in southern England. On the 12th and 13th a weak trough of low pressure moved south-east over the British Isles and was associated with some rain in most areas, the rain reaching the south of England on the 13th.

Subsequently an anticyclone centred westward of Scotland moved north-east to the Faeroes, where it remained almost stationary until the 26th; it then moved away slowly east in front of a weak trough off our north-west seaboard. Dry, sunny, rather cool weather prevailed until the 19th; thereafter temperature rose, the weather continuing sunny and dry. On the 26th a small anticyclone off our south-west coasts moved very slowly east and subsequently remained almost stationary over the English Channel. Meanwhile a trough of low pressure approached our western coasts and moved slowly east. Fair, very warm weather prevailed over much of the country though some rain fell at times in Scotland and Ireland. Rain fell in northern England also on the 28th with thunderstorms locally in north-east England. On the 29th an anticyclone over Scotland moved away east and, in its rear, another trough moved north-east causing some further rain in Scotland and Ireland, with a thunderstorm locally in north-east Scotland.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure exceeded the average generally, the excess at 9h. ranging from 3.0 mb. at St. Mary's, Scilly, to 4.5 mb. at Lerwick. The month was appreciably quieter than usual; for example, at Southport, with June, 1940, it was the calmest June since 1932. A gale occurred in the northern half of the British Isles on the 6th, when the wind gusted up to 54 knots at Edinburgh and Eskdalemuir and up to 52 knots at Durham.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average for the period 1906-35 by 1.8°F. in England and Wales, 1.2°F. in Scotland and 2.5°F. in Northern Ireland. The deviation from the average for the districts ranged from +0.5°F. in Scotland, E. to +2.5°F. in Scotland, W., Northern Ireland, and England, S.W. and S. Wales. Broadly speaking the first five days and the period 15th-18th were

rather cool, while the last 10 days were warm, some of them very warm. Slight screen frost occurred locally in Scotland on the 9th and 15th-18th, while in England temperature in the screen fell to 35°F. or below at some stations chiefly on the 2nd and 16th-18th. Temperature touched 84°F. at Glasgow and Falkirk on the 26th, this being the warmest June day in Scotland since 1943. In England 85°F. was reached or somewhat exceeded locally on the 26th, 27th, 28th and 30th. At Armagh 83°F. on the 23rd equalled the highest value recorded in June in a record going back to 1871.

The extreme temperatures in the screen for the month were:—(England and Wales) 90°F. at Poole on the 28th, 32°F. at Houghall on the 17th; (Scotland) 84°F. at Falkirk and Glasgow on the 26th, 28°F. at Logie Coldstone on the 16th and at Budden Ness on the 18th; (Northern Ireland) 83°F. at Armagh on the 23rd and at Aldergrove on the 26th, 36°F. at Aldergrove on the 16th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 30 over England and Wales, 59 over Scotland and 43 over Northern Ireland. The deficiency was general, a slight excess being recorded at only one station, namely at Craibstone, in Aberdeenshire. More than 75 per cent. of the average occurred in an area in West Scotland, and at a number of places on or near the east coast of Scotland. In England and Wales only a few scattered stations received more than half the average. In Northern Ireland the percentage of the average increased from less than 25 in the south-east to more than 50 in the west and north-west.

Rainfall was not only scanty but the number of days with measurable rain was also very small in some districts; at numerous places in the Midlands and southern England there were only three such days while at West Lavington and Swanage there were only two. From the 14th-26th inclusive little or no rain fell throughout the country. In such a dry month heavy falls were few but 1.05 in. fell at Macclesfield on the 3rd and 1.06 in. at Glenmoidart (Inverness-shire) and 1.21 in. at Ardgour (Argyllshire) on the 10th.

Thunderstorms were rather widely reported on the first four days; they occurred locally also on the 7th, 9th, 10th, 23rd, 27th, 28th and 30th.

Sunshine.—Sunshine substantially exceeded the average for the period 1906-35, the percentage of the average being 125 over England and Wales, 137 over Scotland and 147 over Northern Ireland. The excess was universal, no single station recording less than its average. Over England and Wales as a whole sunshine exceeded the average in each of the past eight months except March, when the percentage of the average was 99. At Stornoway, in the Northern Hebrides, June, 1949 was the sunniest June in a record going back to 1881. Over the country as a whole, however, it was probably not so sunny as the exceptionally sunny Junes of 1925 and 1940.

Fog.—Fog, chiefly early morning, occurred locally at times, mainly on the 1st-3rd, 6th-13th, 20th-22nd and 24th-30th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were noted at Oxford on four days.