

## MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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## OCTOBER, 1935.—Wet and dull on the whole; frequent strong winds and gales.

Broadly speaking, the month was wet and dull, with frequent gales, the gale of the 18th to 20th being very widespread and unusually severe. The excess of rainfall and deficiency of sunshine were particularly remarkable in Scotland.

The depression, which was centred over the south of Scotland on the 1st, moved away eastward. Between the 2nd and 6th, a large, complex depression moved south-eastward from the south of Iceland across the British Isles and then turned north-east to southern Scandinavia. This was a period of frequent heavy local rain and thunderstorms. Another deep depression, centred off north-west Iceland on the 8th, moved to the Shetland Islands and then north-east to the west of Norway. Meanwhile secondary disturbances crossed the British Isles and further rain fell at times. Pressure rose temporarily behind this system and, for a period, a belt of high pressure extended from the Azores across France to Poland and depressions skirted our north-western or northern seaboard. Unsettled conditions persisted in the west and north, but, for the most part, rainfall was only slight in England between the 12th and 17th. The most intense depression of the month passed from the south of Iceland to the Baltic from the 18th to 20th and caused widespread and severe gales in the British Isles. A spell of colder weather followed, with widespread sleet and snow in Scotland from the 20th to 22nd. Subsequently the centres of the main depressions were situated well to the north and associated shallow troughs of low pressure crossed these Islands.

With the development of an Atlantic depression, south-eastward of Greenland on the 27th, the British Isles came in the path of a broad stream of equatorial air and temperature rose decidedly. A trough of low pressure crossed the country on the 29th, and during the last two days a very deep depression moved from a position near Iceland to the Faroes, causing strong, squally winds and local gales in the British Isles.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure was below the average except at the Scilly Isles, the deviation from the average at 7h. varying from +0.4 mb. at Scilly to -11.5 mb. at Lerwick. The mean pressure gradient was thus markedly increased (see Chart I). Strong winds and gales were more frequent than is usual in October, the windiest periods being 9th-10th, 13th-14th, 17th-20th and 27th-31st. The gale of the 18th-20th was general and very violent, especially in the northern half of the country: shipping suffered severely, the greatest tragedy being the loss of the Glasgow steamer "Vardulia" with her crew of 37. Among the highest speeds recorded in gusts were 101 m.p.h. at Bell Rock Lighthouse (Angus), 92 m.p.h. at Abbotsinch (Renfrew), 90 m.p.h. at Dunfanaghy Road (Donegal) and 88 m.p.h. at Bidston Observatory on the 19th and 90 m.p.h. at Tiree on the 18th. A mean hourly wind speed of 68 m.p.h. was recorded at Bell Rock Lighthouse on the 19th and one of 60 m.p.h. at Tiree late on the 18th.

**Temperature.**—Mean temperature was a little below the average, the deviation varying from -0.2°F. in England, SW. to -1.3°F. in Scotland, W.

Equatorial air was responsible for the two mild spells from the 13th-18th and 27th-29th, when the nights as well as the days were mild: a minimum temperature of 59°F. was recorded at Croydon and one of 58°F. at widely separated stations in England and Wales on the night of the 27th-28th. Some warm days occurred earlier in the month, while in southern Ireland, the highest temperature was recorded at certain stations on the 26th. The coldest spell occurred from the 20th-26th, the lowest temperature being registered generally on one or other of these days. Minima of 25°F. were recorded locally in Scotland on the 21st and 22nd, while in England and Wales, some extremely low values were recorded on

the 21st; for example, 15°F. at Rickmansworth, 18°F. at Usk, 20°F. at Thetford and 21°F. at Larkhill and Appleby.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 66°F. at Usk on the 6th and 27th, 15°F. at Rickmansworth on the 21st; (Scotland) 62°F. at Glenbranter on the 3rd and at Ruthwell on the 4th, 24°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 22nd; (Ireland) 66°F. at Glasnevin and Trinity College (Dublin) on the 15th and at Cork on the 26th and 29°F. at Glasnevin on the 21st.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 139, the values for the constituent countries being England and Wales 129, Scotland 183 and Ireland 119. Less than the average rainfall occurred in parts of the southern half of the country, particularly in the extreme south and south-east of Ireland and in some areas in the eastern districts of England. In Scotland, the rainfall was very unusual; with the exception of the Eastern Counties, the Border Counties and a coastal strip in the west and north, aggregates were, as a rule, more than twice the average. At Inverness, Inveraray and Glasgow (Queen's Park) totals exceeded three times the average. At Inveraray, it was the wettest month of any name in a record which goes back to 1881. At Glasgow University and Greenock, where there are records back to 1866, the totals 7.98 in. and 12.78 in. respectively, have been exceeded only once in October, namely, in 1874. Rainfall was not only excessive but very frequent: at certain places in Argyll, Dumbartonshire, Kirkcudbrightshire, Skye and the Outer Hebrides, measurable rain fell on each day of the month.

Local thunderstorms were rather frequent and occurred at times from the 1st-6th, 8th-11th, 17th and 29th-31st.

Snow and sleet were widespread in Scotland between the 20th and 22nd, and occurred also at a few places in the north of England and in North Wales. Local snow or sleet showers were reported in Scotland also from the 9th-11th, 17th-19th, 26th and 29th-31st.

Among heavy falls in 24 hours may be mentioned:—

3rd. 55 mm. at Stonehaven.

5th. 74 mm. at Mary Tavy (S. Devon) and 68 mm. at Tavistock.

9th. 55 mm. at Lligwy (Anglesey).

18th. 99 mm. at Glenquoich (Inverness-shire), 74 mm. at Glenshiel (Ross-shire) and 60 mm. at Fort William.

28th. 67 mm. at Dungeon Ghyll (Westmorland).

**Sunshine.**—Sunshine was deficient in all districts except England, E. (See Table I). In Scotland, the deficiency was general and very marked. At Inchkeith, Renfrew and Eskdalemuir, it was the dullest October since records began in 1923, 1921 and 1910 respectively, while at Paisley, where records date back to 1885, only one duller October (1920) has been experienced. The month was exceptionally dull also in north-west England and at Malin Head on the extreme north coast of Ireland. At Southport, it was the dullest October since 1903.

**Fog.**—Local fog occurred at times mainly from the 2nd-8th, 17th and 21st-26th. Fog was also rather persistent at the mouth of the English Channel from the 14th-16th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—The aurora was visible over the greater part of Scotland on the nights of the 20th and 21st, and was again seen fairly widely on the 25th and 27th. The display of the 25th was observed at Point of Ayre, Isle of Man. The aurora was reported in northern districts of Scotland also on the 1st, 4th, 10th, 22nd, 24th, 27th, 30th and 31st. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 13 days.