

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: ADASTRAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON W.C.2; 120 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH 2; YORK STREET, MANCHESTER 1; 1 ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF; 80 CHICHESTER STREET, BELFAST; or through any Bookseller.

VOL. 52. No. 2.

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.

FEBRUARY, 1935.—Mild and Wet.

The most notable feature of the month was the exceptional warmth. Temperatures were considerably above the average in most districts, especially the south. Rainfall also was in excess of the average, that at Tenterden, Kent, being 280 per cent of the normal. Sunshine on the whole was deficient. Gales were frequent and widespread.

From the 1st to the 6th the passage of depressions and associated secondaries caused mild and stormy conditions in all districts. Very high temperatures for the time of year were recorded, the maximum of 57°F. at Aberdeen on the 1st being the highest for any day in early February since 1871. Temperatures were relatively lower over England, however, during this period. Strong winds and gales were prevalent in all districts, particularly in the West and North. During this period, rainfall, though widespread, was not excessive.

From the 7th to the 9th an anticyclone extended from the Azores across the British Isles to Scandinavia. Showers were frequent in Scotland and the southern half of England where they took the form of snow and hail at some places. Frosts occurred at night in all districts.

From the 10th to the 28th a prolonged series of intense and complex depressions brought mild, stormy and unsettled weather to all districts. Heavy rains occurred in many places and flooding was widespread. Appreciable falls of snow occurred in Scotland and in England between the 20th and 24th. Gales were reported from all districts while thunderstorms occurred in Southern England and Scotland. Severe damage was done by lightning to the church of Week St. Mary, Cornwall, on the 21st and that of St. Mark's, Newport Monmouthshire, was struck on the same day.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was generally below normal, especially in the west and north, the difference from normal at 7h. ranging from -4.9 mb. at Scilly to -13.8 mb. at Lerwick. For the greater portion of the month winds from between S.W. and N.W. predominated, except on the 6th when a strong northerly current swept the whole of the British Isles. On the 7th, 8th and 9th winds were N. to N.E. in the south and southerly in the north. Light variable winds characterized the 10th, but on the 11th there was a return to strong S.W. to N.W. winds due to the advent of a large depression from the Atlantic. Similar conditions lasted till the 25th, when complex depressions gave rise to strong N.E. winds over Ireland, N. England and Scotland. A wedge of high pressure on the 26th resulted in northerly winds over the east, and south-easterly to southerly winds in the west. On the 27th south-easterly winds were general, becoming S. to S.W. on the 28th.

Severe gales were frequent and widespread, there being only one period—namely the 7th-9th—really free. A gust of 89 m.p.h.

was registered at Lerwick on the 2nd, gusts of 79 m.p.h. and 77 m.p.h. at Liverpool and Holyhead respectively on the 16th, and in addition to gusts of 75 m.p.h. at Sealand and Cardington on the same date frequent gusts of 65 to 70 m.p.h. occurred at various places between the 12th and 23rd.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was considerably above normal in all districts except the Shetlands, the excess ranging from 1° to 4° at individual stations. High maxima were recorded at many stations on the 1st notably at Aberdeen, Dundee and Arbroath.

The warmest spells were the 1st and 2nd and the 15th-20th. During these periods maxima exceeded 55°F. locally in Scotland, while several stations in other districts reported 59°F.

The coldest spells were the 7th-10th and 23rd-26th during which periods sharp frosts occurred in most places. A night minimum of 10°F. was reported from Dalwhinnie on the 24th.

Precipitation.—Precipitation was generally above the average, the excess in most districts being around 50 per cent. The greatest deviations from the average were in N.E. England, the Midlands and Kent. The highest totals for the month were recorded in the Lake District and Snowdonia where falls of 528 mm. and 690 mm. were recorded. Heavy daily falls occurred in several places, some of the most noteworthy being 97 mm. at Fort William on the 18th, 94 mm. at Ambleside on the 15th, 60 mm. at Achnashellach on the 18th and 50 mm. at Meltham on the 15th. Snow fell in Scotland on the 2nd, 3rd and 24th-26th, and in England on the 1st, 7th-9th and 19th-28th, being of moderate intensity in most places.

Sunshine.—In general sunshine was below the average, but some stations in Scotland and Ireland had amounts in excess of the normal, notably Renfrew where the excess was 67 per cent.

Fog.—Local fogs were reported from some coastal stations on the 3rd, and from inland stations in Scotland and N.W. England between the 7th and 11th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Aurorae were observed at stations in N. Scotland on the 1st, 2nd, 19th, 24th and 25th and at Rathfarnham Castle on the 24th. Solar haloes, lunar haloes and coronae were reported from several stations in the Midlands and Southern England on numerous occasions, more particularly from the 10th onwards. A complex halo display was observed over a wide area on the 28th. At Oxford solar haloes were observed on 14 days and lunar haloes on 10 nights.