

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

*Annual Subscription
including Annual
Summary and Intro-
duction 30/-inc.post.

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

Price 2s. 0d. net
By Post 2s. 1½d.

VOL. 72 No. 9

PUBLISHED BY HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

Crown Copyright Reserved

September 1955—Changeable and sunny; rather warm in the north.

During the first half of the month the British Isles came mainly under the influence of extensive low pressure systems in the region of south Greenland and Iceland, but during the second half anticyclonic conditions gave some warm sunny days.

From the 1st to the 6th a strong, nearly zonal upper circulation was maintained round a large upper cold pool in the Davis Strait and surface troughs in the westerly airstream over the British Isles gave outbreaks of rain, but most of it fell in the north-west of the country; Ardgour (Inversanda), Argyllshire, recorded 2.27 in. on the 1st. Weather was rather warm generally with variable cloud amounts and sunshine most days; on the 2nd, the warmest day, temperature exceeded 75°F. fairly generally and reached 80°F. at London Airport and Cromer. An anticyclone formed over Russia on the 5th associated with a weak blocking pattern in the upper stream: the cold front which crossed the British Isles that day slowed and intensified giving heavy rain in places and scattered thunderstorms in south-east England. A ridge of high pressure formed over the British Isles the following day, moved into the North Sea on the 7th and later joined up with the Russian anticyclone. Apart from fairly widespread fog around dawn these two days were fine and warm generally, with 11 to 12 hr. sunshine in many areas. As an upper thermal ridge over the British Isles collapsed on the 10th and 11th a complex depression in the region of Iceland remained almost stationary but associated surface fronts crossed the country giving occasional rain with scattered thunderstorms; but there were sunny periods. Abnormally heavy rain was reported from Skye on the 10th; in 24 hr. 4.76 in. fell at Glenbrittle and 4.16 in. at Grula. On the 12th a thermal trough intensified as it moved into the western parts of the British Isles and the following day the main Icelandic depression moved quickly south-east to the North Sea in the strong thermal stream on the western side of the upper trough. In the rear of the surface depression cold air from the region of Greenland swept southward over the British Isles and for the next two days the country remained under the influence of a large amplitude thermal trough. Thunderstorms became widespread and weather much colder; early on the 15th temperature fell to 37°F. at Prestwick, and elsewhere there was slight ground frost for several days. On the 18th a very deep vortex in mid-Atlantic was throwing up a thermal ridge over the British Isles, while from the 17th to the 20th a surface anticyclone, which gave several days of fine weather, moved eastward from the Atlantic along the English Channel to northern Germany. Temperature rose progressively to a little over 70°F. in places by the 20th though there was early morning fog and ground frost. A cold front which had remained quasi-stationary off the west of Ireland for some days moved slowly across the country on the 21st and 22nd; more than 1 in. of rain fell over an unusually wide area in south-east England on the 22nd accompanied by heavy thunderstorms; (Cranwell recorded a noteworthy fall of 1.01 in. of rain in 1.1 hr.). From the 25th an anticyclone became established south-west of the British Isles with a closed upper high cell in the eastern Atlantic. Although there was some slight occasional rain, chiefly in the north, the weather was mostly fine and warm with variable cloud and sunny periods in all areas until the end of the month.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was above the 1921–50 average except in Scotland and in parts of north-east England; the deviation ranging from –3.0 mb. at Lerwick to +2.1 mb. at Newquay. Westerly winds predominated during the first twelve days of

the month and, apart from two periods of north-westerlies from the 13th to the 17th and the 25th to the 28th, winds were mainly south-westerly for the remainder. Winds reached gale force on 14 days in Scotland and on the 2nd, 10th, 12th–15th and 24th in England and Wales.

Temperature.—Mean temperatures differed from the 1921–50 average by +1.1°F. in England and Wales, +2.1°F. in Scotland and +2.2°F. in Northern Ireland. The first week was the warmest, temperature rising above 70°F. over a fairly wide area in Scotland on the 6th–8th and over 75°F. in most districts of England and Wales on the 2nd.

Extreme temperatures included:—(England and Wales) 81°F. at Warsop on the 1st, 33°F. at six stations on the 14th, 15th, 19th, 20th and 29th; (Scotland) 79°F. at Coatbridge and Glasgow on the 7th, 34°F. at Glenlivet on the 12th, Carnwath on the 14th and Leadhills on the 15th; (Northern Ireland) 74°F. at Ballykelly and Garvagh on the 7th and 6th respectively, 42°F. at Hillsborough on the 14th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the 1881–1915 average was 80 over England and Wales, 115 over Scotland and 140 over Northern Ireland. Less than the average fell over much of the eastern half of Scotland, most of England and County Down, Northern Ireland. The most marked deficiencies, more than 50 per cent. of the average, were recorded locally along the east coast, in the Trent Valley and in the west country from Cirencester to Abergavenny. Over much of the western half of north Scotland rainfall was above 125 per cent. of the average, and the excess increased towards the Hebrides; Skye had more than 175 per cent. Elsewhere the average was exceeded in a belt from Sussex to Norfolk (with 150 per cent. in south Essex) and locally in the Midlands, central Wales and on Dartmoor. Most of Northern Ireland had more than 125 per cent. of the average.

Among the heavy falls in 24 hr. other than those mentioned above were:—

10th 3.71 in. at Skye, Loch Harport, Inverness-shire.
22nd 2.46 in. at Brighton Waterworks (Race Hill), Sussex.
22nd 2.39 in. at Kemsing, Kent.

Thunderstorms.—These occurred in Scotland on 10 days, outbreaks being fairly widespread on the 9th and 12th. In England and Wales thunderstorms occurred on the 9th, 13th, 14th, the 22nd, when they were unusually heavy, and 23rd. Many places in south-east England had thunderstorms on six days. Northern Ireland had thunder on the 1st and 8th.

Sunshine.—General sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921–50 average was 117 over England and Wales, 114 over Scotland and 123 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland several places reported their best September records for 20–25 years and Marchmont had its sunniest September since 1914. In England and Wales the sunniest days were the 6th, 7th and 20th when many places reported more than 10 hr.

Fog.—In England and Wales fog occurred on the 7th and 8th, when it was widespread, and also on the 19th–21st and 24th; in Scotland it occurred on 7 days.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 8 nights.