

## MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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## NOVEMBER, 1939.—Unsettled and unusually wet with frequent gales; mild and dull.

The weather of the month was very unsettled with a succession of depressions or secondary troughs of low pressure passing over the country.

During the opening days a depression off our south-west coasts moved very slowly northward, while a large anticyclone over Scandinavia moved eastward; unsettled weather, with occasional rain, prevailed. On the 4th a shallow disturbance off the south of Ireland moved east-north-east and on the 5th a deep disturbance moved rapidly east and then north-east over the British Isles; there was general rain, heavy in some areas, and widespread gales occurred in the west and north on the 5th. Subsequently pressure was low westward of the British Isles, while secondaries moved north-east over the country; further rain occurred and widespread and severe thunderstorms were reported on the 6th. On the 8th and 9th the depression west of Ireland moved away north-east and between the 10th and 11th a secondary trough moved eastward over the British Isles; unsettled weather persisted, though some places in England escaped rain on the 10th and 11th. On the 12th pressure was at first very uniform over the British Isles and little rain occurred in England on that day but a new Atlantic depression caused further rain in the west and north. This disturbance moved away north-eastward and on the 16th a secondary over Ireland moved quickly eastward; local gales were recorded from the 13th-16th and occasional rain occurred, which was heavy locally, though there was little or none in east and south-east England on the 12th and 13th. Thunderstorms occurred locally on the 14th and 15th. During the night of the 18th and 19th a depression deepened very rapidly as it moved eastward across England; rain was general and heavy on the 18th and scattered, with local thunder, on the 19th.

Subsequently the Azores anticyclone spread north-east and there was a temporary improvement in the weather until the 22nd, when unsettled, rainy conditions were renewed and persisted until the end of the month. On the 23rd and 24th a complex, shallow depression crossed the British Isles and from the 25th to 27th a vigorous depression moved from south-west of Iceland to Scandinavia; heavy rain was experienced in the south of England on the 23rd and rain fell generally on the 25th and 26th, while widespread gales occurred on the 26th. Some sleet and snow were recorded locally in Scotland from the 24th-28th. During the closing days of the month a depression off the Hebrides moved eastward over Scotland; there was general rain and temperature in the south became unusually high for the season.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure was below the average generally, the deficiency being greatest in the north; the deviation at 7 h. ranged from  $-7.8$  mb. at Lerwick to  $-1.9$  mb. at Portland Bill. The pressure gradient was thus considerably increased and southerly to westerly winds greatly predominated. Gales occurred frequently and were widespread on the 26th; they were reported on 13 days at St. Ann's Head and 10 days at Kirkwall. Among the highest speeds recorded in gusts were 72 m.p.h. at Scilly on the 5th, 82 m.p.h. at St. Ann's Head on the 6th, 71 m.p.h. at Gorleston on the 19th and 78 m.p.h. at Bidston, 77 m.p.h. at Stornoway and 75 m.p.h. at Bell Rock on the 26th.

**Temperature.**—Except in the extreme north of Scotland mean temperature considerably exceeded the average, the deviation from the average for the districts ranging from  $+1.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ . in Scotland, N.

to  $+4.7^{\circ}\text{F}$ . in the Midlands, England, S.E. and England, S.W. At Ross-on-Wye, it was the second mildest November on record, the mean temperature being exceeded only in November 1938. The 29th was an unusually mild day for so late in the year; at a large number of stations in England and Wales temperature reached or slightly exceeded  $60^{\circ}\text{F}$ . and at Ross-on-Wye it is the latest date on record for a maximum of  $60^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The period 21st-25th was rather cool.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales)  $63^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Sealand on the 14th and at Teignmouth on the 17th,  $23^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Bromyard on the 20th and Doncaster on the 21st; (Scotland)  $60^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Cupar on the 7th,  $26^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Dalwhinnie on the 12th and Logie Coldstone on 29th; (Ireland)  $61^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Waterford, Ballinacurra and Roches Point on the 17th and  $31^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Markree Castle on the 5th, Newtownforbes on the 20th, Birr Castle on the 24th and at Glasnevin (Dublin), Waterford and Ballinacurra on the 25th.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 171, the values for the constituent countries being England and Wales 178, Scotland 142 and Ireland 197. The excess was almost general, somewhat less than the average being confined to a small part of north-east England, a narrow strip in Scotland stretching south of the Moray Firth and one or two isolated stations elsewhere. More than 200 per cent. of the average occurred over most of the central and southern districts of Ireland, a large part of Wales and southern England, locally in the south-western counties of Scotland and small areas elsewhere in England. At Shanklin, Isle of Wight, November was the wettest month of any name since records began in 1906, while at Birr Castle it was the wettest November in a record back to 1862.

Local thunderstorms occurred frequently for the time of year. They were recorded on the 1st, 6th, 8th, 9th, 14th, 15th and 19th. The storm on the 6th was widespread and unusually severe; at Freiston, Lincs., a house was struck and a child badly burned, considerable damage was caused by lightning at Ventnor, Isle of Wight, and a church spire was struck at Clifden, Connemara. In Skye the storm was accompanied by large hailstones.

Little snow fell during the month but light falls were reported locally in Scotland on 12 days, mostly in the last week.

Among the heaviest falls of rain in 24 hours may be mentioned:—  
25th 4.50 in. at Middlefell (Westmorland), 4.28 in. at Machynlleth (Montgomery) and 4.13 in. at Blaenau Festiniog (Merioneth).

**Sunshine.**—The deficiency of sunshine was a marked feature of the weather of the month, the percentage of the average for districts 1-10 being 70. The percentage values for the districts ranged from 58 in England, S.W. to 88 in Scotland, E. Apart from a few stations in north-east England and one or two places elsewhere the deficiency was general.

**Fog.**—Fog was less persistent than is usual in November. It occurred locally at times, mainly from the 2nd-5th, 10th-13th, 16th-18th, 21st-24th and 29th-30th. Sea fog was rather persistent near the south-west coasts on the 29th and 30th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—The aurora was observed at some stations in northern Scotland on the 11th, 12th, 13th, 15th and 17th. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 15 days.