

SUMMARY of the OBSERVATIONS made at the STATIONS included in the DAILY and WEEKLY WEATHER REPORTS, for the CALENDAR MONTH,

FEBRUARY 1896.

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ISSUED BY THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, 63, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON; R. H. SCOTT, F.R.S., SECRETARY.
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General Summary.—The weather of February was, as a rule, fair and dry in all but the north-western and extreme northern parts of the kingdom, where rain was somewhat frequent. Towards the end of the month snow fell in the northern districts, but the amount was mostly slight. Pressure was very high, especially over England; temperature was also above the average, the excess being in this case greatest over Ireland and Scotland; winds were Easterly in the south, but Southerly or South-westerly in the west and north; rainfall was very deficient, excepting in the extreme north-west; bright sunshine was fairly abundant in the south of England, but considerably less than the normal in the northern districts.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from between 30·30 ins. and 30·35 ins. over nearly the whole of England, where the mean distribution was distinctly anticyclonic, to 30·15 ins. and less in the north-west of Ireland, and to 30·05 ins. and less in the extreme north of Scotland. The values were considerably above the average,* the excess ranging from about a quarter of an inch in the north of Scotland to 0·35 in. or more in the eastern and central parts of England. *Highest* readings were observed as a rule on the 3rd, when the barometer rose to 30·7 ins. and upwards over the northern, eastern, and central parts of England, and to 30·5 ins. and upwards in all other parts of the kingdom. At many of the Irish and Scotch stations, however, the barometer was equally high (30·5 ins. and upwards) on the 16th. *Lowest* readings occurred on the 19th and 20th, when the barometer fell below 29·3 ins. on the west coasts of Ireland and Scotland, and below 29·7 ins. in all other localities, excepting the east and south-east of England. *Range* was moderate.

Depressions.—The only depressions observed in our immediate neighbourhood were those of the 7th–8th, the 19th–20th, and the 25th. In the first instance the system passed north-eastwards outside our extreme north-west coasts, but in the other two cases the disturbance, which was of a “V-shaped” character, spread directly over us from the Atlantic. The depression of the 25th did not extend beyond our western coasts.

Anticyclones.—At various times during the month our islands were affected by a large anticyclone which seems to have preserved its identity throughout nearly the whole period. During the first few days it embraced the entire kingdom, but after the 6th it moved away to the southward. On the 12th, however, it again spread northwards, and remained over us until the 18th, when it moved away to northern Russia, where the system developed considerable intensity. After the 21st it again spread south-westwards over our islands, but after the 24th it finally receded to the eastward. On the 27th a new anticyclone extended over us from the Atlantic, but at the close of the month this was passing away to the southward.

Winds were mainly from the Southward or South-westward on our western and northern coasts, but from the Eastward in the south of England. Gales were somewhat frequent in the north of Scotland, but were very rare in all other districts; on the south and east coasts of England there were none at all.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 47° and upwards on our extreme south-west coasts, to 40° and less over the eastern and central parts of England generally, and to 39° and less in Norfolk. The distribution was of a less wintry type than usual, and the actual values were in nearly all cases above the average,* the excess being small over England, but large in Ireland and Scotland. *Highest* readings were recorded on various dates, but mostly between the 8th and 12th, or on the 28th. On one or other of these days the thermometer exceeded 55° in nearly all districts, and on the 12th it reached 59° at Cullompton and Jersey. *Lowest* readings also occurred at very irregular times; at the English stations they were observed mostly on the 26th and 27th, when the thermometer fell to 15° at Stamford, to 17° at Strathfield Turgiss, and to 19° at Cambridge, Rothamsted, and Bawtry. *Range* was somewhat large over the inland parts of England, but slight elsewhere. *Vapour Tension* ranged from about 0·28 in. on our extreme south-west coasts to very little above 0·20 in. over the east of Scotland and the eastern and central parts of England. *Relative Humidity* varied from 94 per cent. at Donaghadee, Cambridge, and Dungeness, to 85 per cent. at Nairn, Valencia, Jersey, and the North Foreland, and to 81 per cent. at Aberdeen.

Rainfall amounted to considerably less than the average* in all localities excepting the north-west of Scotland and the extreme north of Ireland; over the southern parts of England the fall was, as a rule, less than one-fourth of the normal. The largest aggregates reported were 8·3 ins. at Fort William, 7·3 ins. at Glencarron, and 5·7 ins. at Laudale, the smallest being 0·2 in. at Hereford and Dungeness, and 0·3 in. at Yarmouth, Hurst Castle, Hastings, and the North Foreland. Over the eastern, central, and southern parts of England, as a whole, there were less than 10 days, and at the North Foreland only 3 days with a measurable quantity. Snow or sleet was experienced at many of the northern stations between the 25th and 29th.

Bright Sunshine was in excess of the average* in the south and east of England, but was deficient in all other districts. The proportion of the possible amount ranged from between 41 and 35 per cent. in the Scilly and Channel Islands, to 15 per cent. or less over the northern parts of the kingdom generally, and to only 7 per cent. at Glasgow.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure* and *Temperature* for the 25 years 1871–95; *Rainfall* for the 30 years 1866–95; *Bright Sunshine* for the 15 years 1881–95.