

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

JANUARY 1896.

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General Summary.—The weather of January was mostly cloudy or misty, but dry and quiet, the only gale of any importance being a rather severe one from the North-westward, which occurred in the north-east of Scotland between the 15th and 16th. Thunder and lightning occurred in the Shetlands and Hebrides on the 28th. Pressure was very high, especially about the 9th and 30th; temperature also was above the average; the winds were variable in the south, but Westerly in the north; rainfall was very deficient in all districts excepting the north of Scotland; bright sunshine was in excess of the normal in the north, but was below it in most other districts.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 30·35 ins. over a considerable portion of our southern counties and the English Channel to a little below 30·0 ins. in the Shetlands. Over the northern parts of the kingdom the general distribution was fairly normal, but in the south it was distinctly anticyclonic, the actual values being considerably more than 0·3 in. in excess of the average* over nearly the whole kingdom, and more than 0·4 in. in excess at most of the Welsh and Irish stations. *Highest* readings occurred very generally on the 9th, when the barometer rose to 31·1 ins. at some stations in the west of Scotland, to 31·0 ins., and upwards over the northern parts of our islands generally, and to 30·9 ins. and upwards in all districts excepting the extreme south and south-east of England. At Fort William, the reading at 10.12 a.m. on the 9th, corrected and reduced to sea level, was as high as 31·103 ins. Over the southern parts of Ireland and England the barometer again exceeded 30·9 ins. on the 29th or 30th, the readings being in many places almost, and in some quite, as high as those in the same positions on the 9th. *Lowest* readings occurred over Ireland and England on the 13th or 14th, when the barometer fell below 29·5 ins. on all but our extreme west and south-west coasts. In Scotland, however, they were reported on the 15th, the mercury falling below 28·5 ins. in the Shetlands and below 28·9 ins. over the country generally. *Range* was moderate in the south, but very large in the north; at Sumburgh Head it amounted to more than 2·5 ins.

Depressions.—Very few depressions were observed in our immediate neighbourhood, the centres of the Atlantic disturbances passing as a rule across the extreme northern parts of Scandinavia and Russia. On the night of the 13th, however, a shallow secondary system travelled south-eastwards across England, while on the 15th–16th, a far deeper disturbance skirted the north of Scotland, and passed eastwards to the south of Scandinavia and the Baltic.

Anticyclones.—With the exception of the week ending the 18th there was scarcely any time in which anticyclonic conditions were not reported over at least a portion of the United Kingdom. In two cases, viz., between the 6th and 11th and the 29th and 31st the system was of unusual height, as already stated, and had its central portion immediately over us.

Winds blew from various directions in the south, but principally from the Westward or South-westward in the more northern districts. Scarcely any gales were experienced in the south and east, and very few in the west and north, as a whole, but on our extreme north or north-west coasts there were six or seven, and at Roche's Point (locally) as many as eight. Over England and Ireland absolutely calm weather was as rare as high wind.

Temperature.—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from 47° at Scilly, and 45° or more on our extreme west and south-west coasts generally, to 40° or less over the north and east of Scotland and the east of England, and to a little below 39° at Yarmouth. The mean values were in all cases above the average,* the amount of excess varying considerably in different places, but ranging as a rule between two and a half and three and a half degrees. *Highest* readings were observed on irregular dates, but mostly either between the 1st and 3rd, the 15th and 17th, or the 26th and 27th, when the thermometer reached 55° in many parts of the kingdom; at Nairn and Llandudno it rose to 56°, and at Dublin to 57°. *Lowest* readings occurred over Ireland on the 10th or 11th, but over Great Britain on the 22nd or 23rd, the only stations at which the thermometer fell below 20° being Braemar, Stamford, Churchstoke, and Glenlee. *Range* was moderate. *Vapour Tension* ranged from between 0·26 in. and 0·28 in. on our extreme west and south-west coasts to between 0·20 in. and 0·22 in. at most stations situated in the eastern and central parts of Great Britain. *Relative Humidity* varied from 97 per cent. at Cambridge, and 96 per cent. at Wick and Dungeness, to 86 per cent. at Nairn, and to between 85 and 86 per cent. on our extreme south-west coasts generally.

Rainfall was very deficient in all districts excepting the north of Scotland. Over the United Kingdom generally the total amount was less than half, while at many stations in the west and south-west of England it was less than one fourth, of the average.* The largest aggregates reported were 10·4 ins. at Glencarron, 8·8 ins. at Fort William, and 5·7 ins. at Stornoway; the smallest being 0·4 in. at Hereford, and 0·5 in. at York, Bawtry, and Strathfield Turgess. Snow or sleet occurred over England on the 9th and 10th, over the northern parts of Great Britain generally between the 13th and 16th, and in Scotland between the 21st and 23rd, but the fall was in most cases very slight.

Bright Sunshine was in excess of the average* over the northern parts of Great Britain as a whole, and also at some of our south-western stations, but was deficient in nearly all other localities. The per-centage of the possible duration ranged from 30 at Aberdeen, and 26 at Durham, to 6 in London and at Prestwich, to 5 at Fort Augustus, and to 3 at Manchester (Oldham Road).

* 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.