

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

NOVEMBER 1894.

(Issued as a Supplement to the Weekly Weather Report, 1894.)

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PUBLISHED BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER ST., EDINBURGH, and 90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; AND HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

General Summary.—The early part of November was exceedingly wet and unsettled, especially in the southern parts of the Kingdom, where a tremendous downpour of rain occurred between the 11th and 14th. After the 15th, however, a gradual improvement set in over our eastern and southern districts, and towards the close of the month fair dry weather became general. The period of disturbed weather was marked by frequent thunder and lightning on our southern coasts, while in the latter part of the month aurora was seen almost nightly in the north of Scotland. Pressure was in excess of the average over England, but below it in Ireland and Scotland; temperature was high, especially in the north; the winds were chiefly Southerly or South-westerly; rainfall was very deficient in the north-east, but greatly in excess of the average in the south; bright sunshine was abundant in most places.

Pressure.—Mean at 8 a.m. ranged from 30·0 ins. and upwards over the southern and eastern parts of the English Channel to a little below 29·6 ins. in the Hebrides, the general distribution being in fair agreement with the normal. Over England the values were above the average,* while in Ireland and Scotland they were below it; and as the divergence from the normal was greatest respectively at the extreme north-western and south-eastern stations, the mean gradient over our islands was considerably steeper than usual. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 30th, when the barometer rose to 30·4 ins. and upwards in Scotland, and to between 30·5 ins. and 30·6 ins. in nearly all parts of England and Ireland; in the north and east of Scotland, however, equally high readings were observed on the 26th or 27th. *Lowest* readings were recorded over the southern part of the kingdom on the 12th, and in the north on the 14th, the barometer falling in most districts to 28·9 ins. or less. In the extreme north of Scotland the readings on the latter date were as low as 28·6 ins. *Range* was somewhat large for the season.

Depressions were very numerous during the early part of the month, but in the majority of cases their centres passed well to the northward or north-westward of our islands in the tracks shown approximately by the arrows A and B in map 2, pl. xi. The most important depression observed was a well-marked secondary system which advanced eastwards along the English Channel on the 12th, and which afterwards travelled north-eastwards across the North Sea to Sweden and Finland, where it gradually dispersed.

Anticyclones.—During the earlier half of the month the high pressure systems lay at a considerable distance to the eastward and southward of our islands. After the 19th, however, a large anticyclone extended over us from the Continent, the system remaining in force until the close of the period.

Winds were mainly Southerly or South-westerly, but in the southern districts Easterly breezes were very prevalent during the last eight days of the month. Gales were frequent in the West and North-west, the number of days being as large as 12 at Holyhead, 11 at Donaghadee, and 10 at Stornoway. The only serious gale was that reported on the south-east coast of England on the 14th, when the wind blew with force 10 or 11 from the Southward.

Temperature.—Mean at sea level ranged from 51° and upwards in the Scilly Islands, and 49° and upwards on our extreme south and south-west coasts generally to 45° and less over central Ireland and the north-eastern and central parts of Scotland. The general distribution was fairly normal, but the actual values were everywhere above the average, the excess being large over Great Britain, and especially so in the northern districts, where it amounted in some places to over 4°. *Highest* readings were observed mostly between the 1st and 3rd, when the thermometer rose a little above 60° in nearly all districts. In London the maximum of 65° on the 1st was the highest November temperature recorded since the year 1847. *Lowest* readings were recorded at varying times in the closing week, when sharp frost occurred at nearly all the inland stations. *Range* was moderate. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·34 in. at Scilly and 0·30 in. and upwards on most parts of our south and south-west coasts to 0·25 in. and less over central Ireland and the north-east of Scotland. *Relative Humidity* was high, the per-centage exceeding 90 in many places and reaching 94 at Shiels, Donaghadee, and Cambridge.

Rainfall was very deficient in the east of Scotland and the northern parts of England and Ireland, the amounts being in many places considerably less than half the average.* Elsewhere the normal quantity was exceeded, the excess being very large in the south of England, where the fall amounted in several instances to more than twice as much as the average. The largest aggregates for the month were 12·1 ins. at Laudale, 11·1 ins. at Fort William, and 10·1 ins. at Killarney (over 8 ins. being reported at several stations in the south-west of England); the smallest amounts were 0·5 in. at Nairn and Shields, 0·8 in. at Durham, and 1·0 in. at Bawtry. Between the 11th and 14th more than 3 inches of rain fell over nearly the whole of the southern half of England, and considerably more than 4 inches in many parts of our southern and south-western counties, the heaviest amounts reported at our own stations being 5·5 ins. at Scilly (over 3 inches of which fell on the 11th) and 4·6 ins. at Falmouth.

Bright Sunshine was in excess of the average* at all but a few of our western stations. The per-centage of the possible amount ranged from 39 at Hastings, 36 at Eastbourne and Brighton, and 35 at Dublin to 8 at Manchester (Oldham Road), 6 at Fort William, and 5 at Fort Augustus.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure* and *Temperature* for the 20 years, 1871–90; *Rainfall* for the 25 years, 1866–90; and *Bright Sunshine* for the 10 years, 1881–90.