

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

MARCH 1901.

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General Summary.—A spell of mild rainy weather in the opening week was succeeded by a long period of cold Easterly and North-Easterly winds, with frequent falls of snow or sleet. These wintry conditions reached their culminating point between the 26th and 29th, when the thermometer fell to an exceptionally low level for so advanced a period in the season. At the close of the month, however, the weather again became mild, stormy, and wet. Thunder and lightning occurred in many parts of England on the 1st, 3rd, and 6th, and at Glasgow on the 5th; similar phenomena were also observed at several of the English stations between the 28th and 31st. Pressure and temperature were below the average; the winds were chiefly from between North and East over England, but rather variable in Ireland and Scotland; rainfall was mostly in excess of the normal; bright sunshine was generally deficient.

Pressure.—*Mean at 8 a.m.* ranged from 29·80 ins. and upwards in the south-west of Ireland, to 29·75 ins. and less over Scotland and the east of England generally, and to about 29·70 ins. in the Shetlands. The readings were therefore very uniform, the moderate gradient for Westerly and South-westerly winds, ordinarily prevalent in March, being replaced by a slight gradient for North-westerly and Northerly breezes. The mean values were below the average,* the deficit being slight in Scotland, but rather large in Ireland and England. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 23rd, when the barometer rose to between 30·50 ins. and 30·55 ins. in all but the extreme south-eastern and south-western parts of the Kingdom. *Lowest* readings occurred either on the 1st or 2nd, or on the 30th or 31st. On one or other of the two first dates the barometer fell to 28·5 ins. and less in the extreme west of Ireland, and to 28·8 ins. and less in most other parts of our western and northern districts. On the latter dates it again fell below 28·8 ins. over the northern parts of the Kingdom; and on each occasion, both at the beginning and end of the month, readings below 29·0 ins. were registered at all but our extreme southern stations. *Range* was fairly normal for the time of year.

Depressions.—The most important depressions were those accompanied by the low readings just mentioned. In the first case the movement of a large primary system outside our extreme west and north-west coasts was quickly followed by the passage in a north-north easterly direction of a deep secondary over the St. George's Channel, the Irish Sea, and Scotland. In the second case (*i.e.* on the 30th and 31st) the centre of a deep and rather complex system advanced over Ireland and afterwards moved north-eastwards and northwards across Scotland. On the 7th and 8th a depression which had previously lain for some time off the north of Scotland advanced in an almost due southerly direction across Great Britain and France, the system ultimately filling up over the north-east of Spain.

Anticyclones.—Three such systems were observed. The first spread in from the Atlantic on the 8th and 9th, but receded again after the 10th. The second extended over Great Britain from the Continent on the 13th, but soon moved away to the north-eastward. The third spread gradually over the whole Kingdom from the northward between the 20th and 22nd, and remained with us until the 25th, when it passed away to the Atlantic.

Winds.—These varied greatly in direction. Over the major part of England there was a predominance of winds from between North and East, but on our north-east coasts the South-westerly current was most in evidence. In the extreme north-west of our islands the wind blew almost impartially from all points of the compass. Gales were rather frequent, especially on our south-west coasts, but were seldom of much severity. On the 20th and 21st, however, a hard North-easterly gale was experienced on the east coasts of England, while on the 29th and 30th the wind blew with equal strength from South-east and afterwards from North-west on the north-east coasts of Scotland.

Temperature.—*Mean at sea level* ranged from 43° and upwards in the Scilly and Channel Islands, and from 42° and upwards on our south-west coasts generally, to 40° and less in some parts of Central Ireland, and to 39° and less in Norfolk, and also over the northern parts of Scotland. These values were in all cases below the average,* the deficiency being small in Scotland, but rather large at the English and Irish stations. *Highest* readings occurred at various times between the 10th and 13th, when the thermometer rose to 55° and upwards in most districts, and to 61° at Lairg and Aberdeen. *Lowest* readings were observed either on the 26th, the 28th, or the 29th, when sharp frost occurred over the whole Kingdom. At many places in the west and north the sheltered thermometer fell below 20°, the lowest readings reported being 1° at Braemar, and 7° at Lairg. In several parts of the Kingdom the temperatures registered about this time were the lowest on record for so late a period in the season. *Range* was moderate generally, but large at some of our northern stations; at Aberdeen it amounted to 48°, at Braemar to 49°, and at Lairg to 54°. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·22 in. and upwards in the south-west of England and the west of Ireland, to 0·20 in. and less over the eastern and central parts of Great Britain. *Relative Humidity* varied from 95 per cent. at Parsonstown, and 92 per cent. at Portland Bill, to 83 per cent. at Aberdeen and Leith, and to 79 per cent. at Valencia.

Rainfall was in excess of the average* over the United Kingdom generally, but showed a slight deficit at some of our western and northern stations. The largest amounts reported were 6·3 ins. at Glencarron and Laudale, 5·3 ins. at Killarney, and 4·6 ins. at Churchstoke; the smallest being 1·2 in. at Dungeness, 1·3 in. at Chester, and 1·4 in. at Durham, Bawtry, Spurn Head and Oxford. Heavy falls occurred in the west of Scotland between the 4th and 6th (as much as 3 ins. at Laudale on the 4th), in the south of England on the 20th, and over the northern parts of England and Wales on the 29th. Snow and sleet were frequent, especially during the latter half of the month, the amount being large at many of the English stations on the 19th, and also at several places in the northern parts of Great Britain on the 28th.

Bright Sunshine was as a rule in defect of the average,* but showed a slight excess at many of our north-western and extreme northern stations. The percentage of the possible amount ranged from 44 at Aberdovey and 42 at Douglas (Isle of Man) to 20 or less on the Kentish coast and at several of the urban stations, the lowest value reported being 15 in London.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 30 years 1871–1900; *Rainfall* for the 35 years 1866–1900; and *Bright Sunshine* for the 20 years 1881–1900. (The averages will be published shortly as an appendix to the "Weekly Weather Report.")