

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

## APRIL 1891.

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ISSUED BY THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, 63, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON; R. H. SCOTT, F.R.S., SECRETARY.  
PUBLISHED BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and 90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; AND HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

**General Summary.**—The weather of April was mostly fair and dry excepting during the first week and the closing days of the month; thunderstorms occurred in many places between the 4th and 6th. Pressure was considerably in excess of the average; temperature was low, especially over the northern and eastern parts of Great Britain; the winds, though somewhat variable, were usually from some Easterly quarter; and rainfall was very deficient in most districts. Over England the predominance of anticyclonic weather was marked by very little sunshine, and in most other parts of the kingdom the amount of bright weather was less than usual.

**Pressure.**—Mean for the month at 8 a.m. varied from between 30·00 ins. and 30·05 ins. over Scotland and the north of England to about 29·92 ins. on our extreme south-west coasts, the values being in excess of the average\* over the entire kingdom. In the south of Ireland and the south-west of England the excess was less than 0·1 in., but in the north and north-east of Scotland the difference amounted to about 0·2 in. The distribution of pressure also was abnormal, for in place of a slight gradient for South-westerly winds, there was a gradient for Easterly winds in the south and for Southerly winds in the west and north. *Highest* readings were recorded in most places on the 20th, when the barometer rose to between 30·3 ins. and 30·4 ins. in all but our south-western districts. *Lowest* values were observed over the western parts of our Islands on the 3rd, but in the more northern and eastern districts on the 29th or 30th, the barometer in each case falling below 29·5 ins., and in the extreme west and north to below 29·3 ins. *Range* was moderate.

**Depressions** were comparatively rare, and although the systems which appeared over Western Europe skirted our Islands on every hand, there were (as in March) no instances in which the centre of any important cyclonic system passed directly over us.

**Anticyclones.**—Three such systems were observed in our neighbourhood, the most persistent being that which spread over our Islands from the northward between the 18th and 20th, and which remained with us until the 25th. The height of the anticyclones was at no time very great.

**Winds.**—The most prevalent were North-easterly in the south-east, Easterly in the west, and South-easterly in the north, but at individual stations great variability was shown. At Valencia the proportion of calm weather was unusually large. Gales were somewhat numerous on our north-east coasts, there being as many as six at Aberdeen and five at Shields and Spurn Head. On the western coasts of Great Britain, however, there were none at all, and at the Irish stations the number did not exceed four.

**Temperature.**—*Mean at Sea Level* varied from a little below 41° over the inland portions of the north and north-east of Scotland to slightly below 48° on the extreme south-west coast of our Islands and to a little above that point in the Channel Islands. The general distribution was of a somewhat wintery character, and the actual values were below the average\* in all parts of the kingdom, the deficit being greatest (two and a half to three and a half degrees) in the north and east of Great Britain and least (one degree or less) on our extreme south-west coasts. *Highest* readings were recorded mostly on the 28th and 30th, when the thermometer rose to 65° or a little more at several of the English and Irish stations. *Lowest* values were recorded on the 1st over England, but mainly between the 8th and 10th over Ireland and the west and north of Scotland. Sharp frost occurred in most districts, the lowest readings of all being 17° at Braemar and 21° at Lairg and Cirencester. *Range* was moderate generally, but large at some of the inland stations; at Strathfield Turgiss it amounted to 41°, at Loughborough to 42°, and at Stamford to 43°. *Vapour Tension* ranged from 0·19 in. at Hawes Junction, and from less to than 0·22 in. in nearly all the more northern parts of Great Britain to 0·26 in. and upwards on our south-west coasts generally, and to 0·29 in. at Scilly. *Relative Humidity* varied from 74 per cent. at Aberdeen and 77 per cent. in London, and at Valencia to 89 per cent. at Yarmouth, and to 90 per cent. at Pembroke.

**Rainfall** amounted to less than an inch on the east and south coasts of England and to less than half an inch at several of the coast stations in Scotland, the lowest value of all being 0·19 in. at Leith. In the south of Ireland, however, and in some parts of Wales the fall ranged between two and a half and three inches, while at Edgworthstown it amounted to 3·6 ins. Compared with the average\* the values showed a considerable deficiency in all localities except at some few stations in the northern parts of England and Ireland, where there was a slight excess. The number of rainy days also was small, being less than 15 in most places, and as few as 7 at Leith and Hastings and 6 at Ardrossan.

**Bright Sunshine.**—The amount of bright sunshine was much less than the average\* generally, but considerably in excess of the normal in the extreme north and west of Scotland, and slightly in excess in the south of Ireland. The per-centage of the possible amount of duration was below 30° in nearly all the more eastern, central, and southern parts of England, but was as high as 42° at Fort William, Valencia, and Jersey, and 48° at Stornoway.

\* The averages employed are—*Pressure* and *Temperature* for 20 years, 1871–90; *Rainfall* for the 25 years, 1866–91; *Bright Sunshine* for the 10 years, 1881–90.