

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW,

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
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DIVISION OF

TELEGRAMS AND REPORTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE

The weather of the past month has been, in almost all parts of the United States, an easy transition from winter to spring. The only instances of abnormal weather have occurred in the northernmost portion of the country. The winter temperatures and other meteorological conditions have been generally quite evenly balanced with those of early spring. These conditions are reviewed below in detail.

STORMS AND CYCLONES.

The month of March has been characterized by its usual storminess. Twelve noticeable depressions have passed over more or less of the territory of the United States. The following details sufficiently describe them: [See Storm Track Chart No. 1.]

No. I. This disturbance originated apparently in the Western Gulf States on the last night of February, and moved nearly due eastward, expanding its area of depression, and passing off the Georgia coast at midnight of March 1st. It was attended by no serious consequences.

No. II. This second storm-area of the month entered the United States on the 1st of March from the Northwest, and was marked by a very low barometer. Its track was, however, so high in latitude, that its effects were not much felt.

No. III. Was of more cyclonic force, and passed from the Southwest to northeast directly over the country. It started from Kansas on the morning of March 3rd, and reached the St. Lawrence valley on the morning of the 4th. From Montreal, its course was eastward, and it disappeared off the coast on the 5th.

No. IV. Approached from the Southwest on the evening of the 5th, and pursued a northeastward course steadily until it reached the St. Lawrence valley. It made a slight detour to the northward, crossing the Upper Lakes on the 7th, and thence advanced in a line nearly due eastward. After reaching the Lower St. Lawrence valley on the afternoon of the 8th, it paused and remained stationary, or nearly so, until the 12th—a fact most extraordinary in the progressive movements of storm-centres.

No. V. While No. IV was in progress across the country, a smaller storm-centre was formed in Virginia on the night of the 6th, and advancing up the coast in a northeasterly direction, appears to have passed beyond the Nova Scotia coast on the 8th, or else to have merged into the larger storm, (No. IV.,) which was then coming very near to its track.

No. VI. Commenced in the Southwest on the 9th, and moved over the Southern States, its track on the 11th being deflected from central Alabama to northern Florida, whence it disappeared to the eastward on that day.

No. VII. Although this storm-centre appears to have been formed in the shape of a long trough, lying north and south, west of the Mississippi valley and in the Northwest, early on the 14th, it does not appear in concentrated force until the midnight of the 15th. Then it commenced moving slowly southeastwardly from Dakota to Iowa and northern Missouri, which latter district it reached on the afternoon of the 17th. Thence, its course is at right angles to its earlier track, as it passed from Missouri to Michigan on the 18th, and, on the 19th, rapidly bore away to the Lower St. Lawrence valley, which it traversed during the night of the 19th, and next morning had disappeared. While the main storm-centre was in eastern Missouri, and making a northward or northeastward curve in its course, there was formed a severe storm or tornado in the Mississippi valley, which at 4 a. m., of the 18th, swept with great fury over Cairo, Illinois. It was accompanied by violent lightning and thunder and heavy rain, but no very remarkable oscillation of the barometer was reported. Great damage was done to property by this apparently local whirlwind. Simultaneous, but less violent, disturbances took place at Memphis, Tennessee, and the vicinities.

No. VIII. Was of little importance, originating in the Northwest on the 19th, and moving north of the Signal Service stations toward the Lower St. Lawrence valley.

No. IX. Pursued the same track on the 21st and 22d, and it, too, was of comparatively minor importance.

No. X. Began in the Northwest on the 24th, in the morning, and advanced from Dakota to Lake Superior on the morning of the 25th, and then rapidly moved south of Hudson Bay toward Labrador.

No. XI. Came up from the Lower Missouri valley on the afternoon of the 25th, and pursued its way over Illinois, Indiana and the Lower Lakes on the 26th. It passed down the St. Lawrence valley and thence from the vicinity of Montreal over New Brunswick, and was lost to view on the night of the 27th.

No. XII. A twelfth quite noticeable depression appeared in the Southwest on the 30th, and moved thence over Tennessee on the 31st, producing considerable rain and snow in the Ohio valley, and in its progress eastward over Virginia, caused high winds on the Atlantic coasts. It disappeared, April 1st, in the Atlantic.

Beside these storms, several depressions have apparently advanced from the vicinity of Hudson Bay, southeastwardly, nearly to the Lower Lake region and St. Lawrence valley, but scarcely producing any marked effects in these sections, because their centres were moving eastward on higher parallels of latitude.

Meteorological data, gathered from various sources, show that these storms have been very severe after passing off the American coasts, and have apparently become more violent as they penetrated the middle and eastern side of the North Atlantic.

Without endeavoring to explain this last-named fact, it may be proper to notice that large masses of ice and icebergs were reported during March moving southward and eastward off the New Foundland coast and Banks.