

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW,

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WAR DEPARTMENT,

Office of the Chief Signal Officer,

DIVISION OF

TELEGRAMS AND REPORTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCTORY.

The present summary of the weather for March is compiled from the regular tri-daily observations of the United States Signal Service stations, the regular Canadian observations and a large mass of the Volunteer Observers' reports, together with manuscript, marine and other occasional communications. The observable characteristics of the meteorology of March are the following: First, the disastrous tornadoes which, on the 20th, visited the States of Alabama and Georgia, and thence passed off towards the Carolinas; second, the general liquidation of the winter's accumulation of ice and snow in the valleys of those rivers which drain the eastern and western slopes of the Alleghany and Blue Ridge mountain-chains; third, the unusually heavy ice-drifts and icebergs which were reported off the coasts of North America; fourth, the very heavy rain-fall in the cotton-producing regions of the Southern States; fifth, the unusually low temperature and late spring.

ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE.

Chart No. II, by its isobarometric lines, graphically exhibits the average pressure of the atmosphere in the various districts during March. From these lines of equal pressure, it is seen, that the area or belt of highest pressure for March stretches along the Atlantic coast from Florida towards Cape Cod.

(1) *Areas of high barometer.*—The surface-currents of cold air from the frigid regions of British America, so conspicuous in February, were evidently checked as the month of March advanced, and the areas of high barometer grew less and less marked. During March, there were no such very high barometers as were reported (viz., 30.92 inches, 30.96 inches, and 30.98 inches, on February 6th) in the preceding month. The principal areas of high barometer may be thus enumerated:

No. 1, emerging from the Northwest on the 2d of March, and slowly advancing southeastwardly through the upper Mississippi valley, and thence extending eastward on the 3d, over the Lakes and New England, but apparently divided by low barometer No. II, which approached the Lakes from the Gulf region. This high barometer was evidently due to a very broad but shallow surface-current of cold air, flowing from British America southward over the Northwest, the Lakes and New England, being partly obstructed, as most of the areas of high barometer are, by the "Height of Land" or elevated wall, running north of the St. Lawrence river and the Lakes. After the passage of low barometer No. II, to the east, the pressure from high barometer No. 1 was soon propagated from the Lakes to the Gulf States.