

Falls, 22.8; Baker City, 28.8; Winnemucca, 31.8; Spokane, 32.8; Salt Lake City, 33.6; Carson City, 33.9; Port Angeles, 38.2; Tatoosh Island, 39.0; Portland, Oreg., 40.5; Fort Canby, 40.9; Astoria, 41.6; Eureka, 45.2; Point Reyes Light, 46.8; Red Bluff, 47.9; Fresno, 48.6; San Francisco, 48.9; Phoenix, 54.3.

The *maximum and minimum temperatures* of the current month are given in Table I. The highest maxima were: 92, Corpus Christi (21st), San Antonia (30th); 88, Tampa (16th), Jacksonville (20th), Jupiter (23d); 87, Augusta (21st); 86, Savannah, Jacksonville, and Shreveport (20th), Charleston, (21st), Yuma (25th), Vicksburg (30th). The lowest maxima were: 42 Duluth (21st); 46, Havre (28th), Eastport (30th); 47, Williston (29th); 48, Idaho Falls (25th), Bismarck (29th); 49, Northfield (19th), Block Island and Marquette (29th). The highest minima were: 65, Key West (28th); 51, Galveston (23d); 50, Tampa (1st), Port Eads, (frequently), New Orleans (25th); 49, Jupiter (27th). The lowest minima were: -41, Havre (13th); -36, Bismarck (15th); -35, Williston (14th); -32, Moorhead (15th); -26, Miles City (13th); -25, Huron (14th).

The *limits of minimum temperatures*, 32° and 40°, are shown by lines on Chart No. V.

The *years of highest maximum and lowest minimum temperatures* for March are given in the last four columns of Table I of the REVIEW for 1896. During the current month the maximum temperatures were equal to or above the highest on record at: Corpus Christi, 92; Jacksonville, Tampa, and Jupiter, 88; Vicksburg and Charleston, 86; New Orleans, 84. The minimum temperatures were equal to or below the lowest on record at: Havre, -41; Bismarck, -36; Williston, -35; Moorhead, -32; Miles City, -26; Huron, -25; Northfield, -18; Idaho Falls, -16; Baker City, 0; Carson City, 10; Astoria, 24.

The *greatest daily range of temperature and the data for computing the extreme and mean monthly ranges* are given for each of the regular Weather Bureau stations in Table I. The largest values of the greatest daily ranges were: Havre, 57; Williston, 53; Dodge City, 47; Northfield, 46; Rapid City, 44; Sioux City, Wichita, Pueblo, and El Paso, 43. The smallest values were: Tatoosh Island, 11; Key West, 13; Fort Canby and Point Reyes Light, 14; San Francisco, 15; Astoria and Galveston, 19; Port Eads and Nantucket, 20.

Among the *extreme monthly ranges* the largest were: Havre, 87; Moorhead, 86; Bismarck and Rapid City, 84; Williston, 82; Miles City and Fort Smith, 79; Huron, 77; Concordia, 75. The smallest values were: Key West and Point Reyes Light, 19; San Francisco, 24; Tatoosh Island and Fort Smith, 25; Pysht, 27; Galveston and Port Eads, 28.

Accumulated monthly departures from normal temperatures from January 1 to the end of the current month are given in the second column of the following table, and the average departures are given in the third column for comparison with the departures of current conditions of vegetation from the normal condition.

Districts.	Accumulated departures.		Districts.	Accumulated departures.	
	Total.	Average.		Total.	Average.
New England.....	+ 3.6	+ 1.2	North Dakota.....	- 8.8	- 2.9
Middle Atlantic.....	+ 2.1	+ 0.7	Northern Slope.....	- 4.6	- 1.5
South Atlantic.....	+ 0.7	+ 0.2	Southern Plateau.....	- 5.7	- 1.9
Florida Peninsula.....	+ 3.9	+ 1.3	Middle Plateau.....	- 8.8	- 2.9
East Gulf.....	+ 2.2	+ 0.7	North Pacific.....	- 2.6	- 0.9
West Gulf.....	+ 5.8	+ 1.9	Middle Pacific.....	- 5.8	- 1.9
Ohio Valley and Tenn....	+ 3.0	+ 1.0	South Pacific.....	- 4.1	- 1.4
Lower Lake.....	+ 8.9	+ 1.3			
Upper Lake.....	+ 7.8	+ 2.6			
Upper Mississippi Valley..	+ 3.3	+ 1.1			
Missouri Valley.....	+ 1.4	+ 0.5			
Middle Slope.....	+ 2.0	+ 0.7			
Southern Slope.....	+ 1.2	+ 0.4			
Northern Plateau.....	+ 3.0	+ 1.0			

MOISTURE.

The *quantity of moisture* in the atmosphere at any time may be expressed by the weight of the vapor coexisting with the air contained in a cubic foot of space, or by the tension or pressure of the vapor, or by the temperature of the dew-point. The mean dew-point for each station of the Weather Bureau, as deduced from observations made at 8 a. m. and 8 p. m., daily, is given in Table I.

The *rate of evaporation* from a special surface of water on muslin at any moment determines the temperature of the wet-bulb thermometer. The mean wet-bulb temperature is now published in Table I; it is always intermediate, and generally about half way between the temperature of the air and of the dew-point. The quantity of water evaporated in a unit of time from the muslin surface may be considered as depending essentially upon the wet-bulb temperature, the dew-point, and the wind.

The *relative humidity*, or the ratio between the moisture that is present in the air and the moisture that it would contain if saturated at its observed temperature is given in Table I as deduced from the 8 a. m. and 8 p. m. observations. The general average for a whole day or any other interval would properly be obtained from the data given by an evaporimeter, but may also be obtained, approximately, from frequent observations of the relative humidity.

PRECIPITATION.

[In inches and hundredths.]

The *distribution of precipitation* for the current month, as determined by reports from about 2,500 stations, is exhibited on Chart III. The numerical details are given in Tables I, II, and III. The total precipitation for the current month exceeded 10 inches on the coast of Oregon and Washington, as also over a large portion of Arkansas, southern Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, northern Alabama, Mississippi, and the greater part of Georgia and Tennessee; it exceeded 18 inches in the central portion of this region. The rainfall was less than 1 inch in southern Florida and the southern Plateau Region. The larger values for regular stations were: Montgomery, 12.02; Tatoosh Island, 11.31; Astoria, 11.88; Little Rock, 10.43; Memphis, 10.04; Chattanooga, 11.23.

Details as to *excessive precipitation* for March are given in Tables XI and XII.

The *years of greatest and least precipitation* for March are given in the REVIEW for March, 1890. The precipitation for the current month was the greatest on record at: Montgomery, 12.02; Little Rock, 10.43; Cincinnati, 9.89; St. Louis, 8.25; Columbus, Mo., 5.33; Abilene, 4.02; Idaho Falls, 3.84; Minneapolis, 3.05; Carson City, 2.78; Cheyenne, 2.32; Santa Fe, 2.06. It was the least on record at: Tampa, 1.44; Wilmington, 1.23.

The *diurnal variation*, as shown by tables of hourly means of the total precipitation, deduced from the self-registering gauges kept at the regular stations of the Weather Bureau, is not now tabulated.

The *current departures* from the normal precipitation are given in Table I, which shows that precipitation was in excess in the valleys of the Ohio, Tennessee, and Arkansas, as also in Ontario, Canada. The large excesses were: Cincinnati, 6.6; Montgomery, 5.6; Chattanooga and Little Rock, 5.2; St. Louis and Astoria, 4.8; Knoxville, Memphis, and Palestine, 4.2. In Canada, Port Stanley, 1.6; Rockville, 1.4. The large deficits were: Wilmington, 2.7; Hatteras, 2.3; Atlantic City, 1.10. In Canada, Sydney, 1.1; Chatham, 1.0.

The *average departure* for each district is given in Table I. By dividing each current precipitation by its respective normal the following corresponding percentages are obtained (precipitation is in excess when the percentage of the normal exceeds 100):