

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW.

Editor: Prof. CLEVELAND ABBE.

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INTRODUCTION.

The MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for June, 1898, is based on about 2,940 reports from stations occupied by regular and voluntary observers, classified as follows: 147 from Weather Bureau stations; numerous special river stations; 32 from post surgeons, received through the Surgeon General, United States Army; 2,583 from voluntary observers; 96 received through the Southern Pacific Railway Company; 29 from Life-Saving stations, received through the Superintendent United States Life-Saving Service; 31 from Canadian stations; 20 from Mexican stations; 7 from Jamaica, W. I. International simultaneous observations are received from a few stations and used, together with trustworthy newspaper extracts and special reports.

Special acknowledgment is made of the hearty cooperation of Prof. R. F. Stupart, Director of the Meteorological Service of the Dominion of Canada; Mr. Curtis J. Lyons, Meteorologist to the Hawaiian Government Survey, Honolulu; Dr. Mariano Bárcena, Director of the Central Meteorological and Magnetic Observatory of Mexico; Mr. Maxwell Hall, Government Meteorologist, Kingston, Jamaica; Capt. S. I. Kim-

ball, Superintendent of the United States Life-Saving Service; and Commander J. E. Craig, Hydrographer, United States Navy.

The REVIEW is prepared under the general editorial supervision of Prof. Cleveland Abbe.

Attention is called to the fact that the clocks and self-registers at regular Weather Bureau stations are all set to seventy-fifth meridian or eastern standard time, which is exactly five hours behind Greenwich time; as far as practicable, only this standard of time is used in the text of the REVIEW, since all Weather Bureau observations are required to be taken and recorded by it. The standards used by the public in the United States and Canada and by the voluntary observers are believed to generally conform to the modern international system of standard meridians, one hour apart, beginning with Greenwich. Records of miscellaneous phenomena that are reported occasionally in other standards of time by voluntary observers or newspaper correspondents are sometimes corrected to agree with the eastern standard; otherwise, the local meridian is mentioned.

FORECASTS AND WARNINGS.

By Prof. F. H. BIGELOW, in charge of Forecast Division.

But one general wind storm occurred in the interior of the country and none on the Atlantic or Pacific coasts. Detailed remarks relative to winds and forecasts are given below. Thunderstorms were quite frequent and severe and generally forecast successfully. Slight frosts occurred at extreme northern and Rocky Mountain stations. The river forecasts of approaching low water were of special value, preliminary to the light navigation of the summer season. The areas of high and low pressure were not remarkable for great barometric departures.

The following special articles by the respective members of the Forecast Division give all that need be said with regard to a month whose meteorology was rather tamer than usual.

WIND SIGNALS.

During the month no signals were displayed on the lower Lakes, two displays for storms were made on the upper Lakes, and the information signal was displayed once on the south New England coast.

With the exception of moderate gales at Cleveland of 36 miles per hour, on the 14th and 19th, lasting from an hour to an hour and a half, and several gusts of a few minutes duration, due generally to thunderstorms, no high winds occurred on the lower Lakes.

On the 1st, information signals for brisk northeast winds were displayed on the south New England coast, and on the

4th and 5th special wind forecasts were telegraphed to stations on the middle Atlantic and south New England coast for high northeast winds diminishing in force.

Moderately high winds were reported as follows:

1st, Nantucket, 36 northeast; 3d to 4th, Nantucket, 35 northeast; 4th, Eastport, 32 northeast; 4th to 5th, Atlantic City, 38 northwest; Cape Henry, 39 northeast; Hatteras, 42 north; 25th, New York, 40 southeast.

On the 24th at 10:30 a. m., southwest storm signals were ordered for Lakes Michigan and Huron and the eastern portion of Lake Superior; a maximum wind of 50 miles an hour from the southwest occurred over the southern end of Lake Michigan and a maximum of 38 miles southwest at Marquette on the 24th.

On the 28th a southeast storm signal was displayed at Marquette, well in advance of a wind of 32 miles from the south.

The month of June presented few instances of high winds on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, or on the Lakes. On the 1st and 2d the barometer was relatively low near Nantucket, Mass., while an area of high pressure covered the St. Lawrence Valley. Maximum velocities of 30 to 40 miles occurred on the southeast New England coast, but the winds were steady and not unfavorable to shipping. Quite a similar condition occurred on the 4th and 5th, when a high area extended from New England to the South Atlantic States, giving maximum velocities of 30 to 40 miles at exposed places on the middle and north Atlantic coasts. The barometric

gradients were very wide apart during these high coast winds, and, as there was no visible storm center, it was not easy to account satisfactorily for the observed velocities. These are instances of the general fact that high areas are capable of producing high winds along their edges, though these are usually associated, if not exclusively so in the public mind, with a low barometer and storm center. There were no other high velocities of the wind in June, except the temporary gusts which accompany the development of thunderstorms.—*F. H. Bigelow, Professor.*

THUNDERSTORM FORECASTS.

The spring season of 1898 has been comparatively slow in warming up to summer temperatures; at the same time the eastward circulation of the upper atmosphere was apparently very stagnant. When the solar radiation became at last effective in warming the lower strata, this produced conditions favoring local convectional overturning of the lower strata, and the development of showers and thunderstorms in excess of the general amount belonging to June. The forecasts for June have as a rule, in the experience of the Weather Bureau, had a lower percentage of verification than any other month, and this is due to the turbulent convectional interchange between the surface and the lower cloud strata. On the 7th thunderstorms occurred in the Mississippi Valley and on the Rocky Mountain slope; on the 8th they covered the Ohio Valley, the Lake region, and the Southern Mountain slope; on the 9th they recurred in about the same districts; on the 10th they covered the Lake region, the Ohio and the Mississippi valleys; on the 11th they repeated in the same districts and extended somewhat toward New England; on the 12th they overspread New England and the Atlantic States, and occurred again in the Lake region, the Ohio, and lower Mississippi valleys; on the 13th they were reported in about the same districts; on the 14th they occurred in the Atlantic States, and began to appear once more on the Middle Mountain slope; on the 15th they were confined to the Gulf States and the Mountain slope; on the 16th, 17th, and 18th they were generally limited to the east Gulf States; on the 19th they visited the lower Lake region and the east Gulf States. After this date thunderstorms became somewhat less frequent. Their occurrence was generally well covered by the forecasts during the period just described. One noticeable fact may be mentioned, namely, that thunderstorms do not by any means limit themselves to localities included in the eastern quadrants of the low areas, but are found all around the periphery of the high areas, and also very frequently within a high area itself. This shows that it is the vertical convection, rather than the horizontal circulation, which is chiefly concerned in the production of this class of local storms. Sometimes the cumulus cloud stratum from the west may overflow a stagnant lower layer of air, and thus intensify these thunderstorm conditions. Insolation at the ground and overflowing of cool air at the height of a mile or two primarily produce these overturnings and local storms.—*F. H. Bigelow, Professor.*

FORECASTS AT CHICAGO, ILL.

The storm of June 24–25 was the only one during the month which was attended by high winds quite generally over the upper Lakes. The following message was issued on the 24th to Lakes Michigan and Huron and eastern and central Lake Superior:

Hoist storm southwest signals at 10:30 a. m. Partly cloudy weather and squalls indicated, with brisk to high southwest winds.

Maximum wind velocities were reported as follows: Chicago, 50; Marquette, 38; Alpena, 38; Green Bay, 30. The displayman at Mackinaw wrote, under date of June 25:

The most severe storm seen in this section for a long time began yesterday at 12:30 p. m., two hours after hoisting signals, the wind blowing a gale from southwest to west, accompanied by very heavy thunder squalls and very heavy rain. The storm caused considerable damage to electric wires; telegraphic communication to portions of northern Michigan was interrupted for twenty-four hours.

E. B. Garriott, Professor and Forecast Official.

FORECASTS AT SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

No warnings of weather conditions were issued during the month of June. A serious and destructive norther occurred on June 29 and 30 throughout the region from San Francisco and Stockton northward, and mention of it was made in the daily forecasts. However, since there were no means of protecting the crops then exposed against its effects, a special warning was not deemed advisable.—*W. H. Hammon, Local Forecast Official.*

FORECASTS AT PORTLAND, OREG.

No wind-signal orders were issued during the month, there being no storms.

During June the prevailing barometric conditions were most peculiar. The "summer type" of weather conditions did not appear, and the result was that frequent showers occurred, with peculiar temperature changes. Under abnormal barometric conditions accurate forecasts are more difficult to make than when normal conditions prevail. From time to time during the month the office published information that the summer conditions had not yet arrived and that showers must be expected. This information was of great value to the farmers, for it enabled them to save their hay crop. Frequent personal and telephonic requests were made by fruit men, farmers, and hay dealers for special weather forecasts in connection with hay, strawberries, and cherries. Requests were made by farmers for logotype postal-card forecasts, and the requests were granted.

Inman, Poulson & Co., a large lumber firm in this city, constructed a raft containing 5,000,000 feet of rough lumber, to be taken to San Francisco by tugs. Success meant large profits and a new industry; failure meant the loss of many thousand dollars. They consulted this office and intended to start the raft when I said so; but, owing to prices, they started before I was satisfied that they were safe. I wanted a summer weather type. Fortunately they were fairly successful, losing only about 500,000 feet. They informed me that the next raft would go in August, on "Weather Bureau orders only."—*B. S. Pague, Local Forecast Official.*

AREAS OF HIGH AND LOW PRESSURE.

During the month the paths of eight highs and ten lows were sufficiently well defined to be traced, and they will be found on Charts I and II in this REVIEW. The accompanying table gives the principal facts regarding the first appearance of these conditions and the date and place of their disappearance, their duration, length of path, and velocity. The more interesting facts of the month relate to the occurrence of thunderstorms, and a note on their development will be found under the proper head.

Highs.—In projecting these highs on Chart I it should be noted that often they are extremely indefinite in their appearance and hence the positions are often only approximate. Also, as has been repeatedly stated before, in northwest Canada, the appearance of both highs and lows is quite deceptive, owing to the fact that the current temperature is used in making the reduction of pressure to sea level. In consequence of this a morning low temperature will produce a fictitious high, or very much exaggerate a weak one. This difficulty is avoided in the United States by using the mean temperature of the current and previous observation, thereby