

THE WEATHER OF THE MONTH.

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In the majority of districts moderate winter weather prevailed during the greater part of the month. From about the 20th to the end of the month the weather was uniformly cold but without severe storms or other marked disturbances. The precipitation was above normal in the Gulf States and the great interior valleys. It was markedly deficient only in New England and the Middle and South Atlantic States. Three lows moved from Texas northeastward to the Gulf of St. Lawrence during the month, all of which were attended by copious rains.

On the Pacific coast there was an abundance of rain from central California northward to British Columbia. Clear, dry weather prevailed quite generally from the 19th until the end of the month. There were no destructive storms.

The snowfall was rather light and disappeared rapidly. At the end of the month there was not much snow on the ground.

PRESSURE.

The monthly mean isobars, as drawn on Chart IV, differ but slightly in their configuration from those of a normal month. The winter high of the western Plateau extended somewhat further southeast than is the case in a normal month, and the increase in pressure as compared with the preceding month was relatively greater over the Rocky Mountain and Plateau region than over the South Atlantic States. There was an increase from November to December of more than 0.20 inch in monthly mean pressure throughout the northern and middle plateaus, and also in Assiniboia and Alberta.

TEMPERATURE OF THE AIR.

The distribution of monthly mean surface temperature, as deduced from the records of about 1,000 stations, is shown on Chart VI.

Temperature was from 2° to 3° above normal from New England westward through the Lake region, and along the northern boundary to the Pacific coast and also over southern California, Arizona, and New Mexico. It was below normal by amounts ranging from less than a degree, on the average, on the south Atlantic coast to about 5° in Missouri and eastern Kansas. On the whole the month was not so severe as the corresponding month a year ago. In New England and the Middle States the weather was mild and pleasant up to Christmas. There was not as much snow in southern New England as in the interior of the Gulf States. The snow in the Gulf States, however, did not last long, although several moderate cold waves passed over the Gulf and South Atlantic States, during the month, a minimum temperature of 30° being recorded at Jacksonville.

There were comparatively few days with zero temperature in the extreme northwest, and no very severe and widespread cold waves in any part of the country.

In Canada.—Prof. R. F. Stupart says:

Temperature was above average throughout the Dominion, except in a few small sections, where it was just about the average, or slightly

below. These sections were a portion of Alberta, the extreme southern part of Assiniboia, the extreme southwestern part of Ontario, and in the neighborhood of White River, in the Lake Superior district. From the Georgian Bay region to our Atlantic coast the average was considerably exceeded. Parry Sound was 3° above; Kingston, 4° above; Ottawa and Montreal, 5° above; Quebec, 7° above; Charlottetown, 6° above, and Halifax 4° above.

Average temperatures and departures from the normal.

Districts.	Number of stations.	Average temperatures for the current month.	Departures for the current month.	Accumulated departures since January 1.	Average departures since January 1.
New England	10	34.2	+ 2.6	+ 4.8	+ 0.4
Middle Atlantic	12	37.0	+ 0.8	+ 3.1	+ 0.3
South Atlantic	10	47.2	- 1.5	+ 2.7	+ 0.2
Florida Peninsula	7	61.2	- 0.5	+ 4.0	+ 0.3
East Gulf	7	50.4	- 1.8	- 0.5	0.0
West Gulf	7	49.3	- 2.1	+ 2.7	+ 0.2
Ohio Valley and Tennessee	12	35.4	- 2.9	+ 5.9	+ 0.5
Lower Lake	8	30.3	- 0.2	+ 9.7	+ 0.8
Upper Lake	9	24.4	- 0.1	+ 6.9	+ 0.6
North Dakota	7	13.9	+ 1.0	- 4.9	- 0.4
Upper Mississippi	11	26.7	- 1.7	+ 6.4	+ 0.5
Missouri Valley	10	25.7	- 3.1	+ 2.3	+ 0.2
Northern Slope	7	24.0	- 0.9	- 17.4	- 1.4
Middle Slope	6	32.3	- 2.6	+ 1.0	+ 0.1
Southern Slope	6	38.8	- 2.8	- 2.8	- 0.3
Southern Plateau	13	41.9	+ 1.2	- 2.8	- 0.2
Middle Plateau	9	26.4	- 2.4	- 12.3	- 1.0
Northern Plateau	10	29.4	- 0.2	- 10.5	- 0.9
North Pacific	9	43.4	+ 1.5	- 5.1	- 0.4
Middle Pacific	5	47.6	- 0.9	- 3.9	- 0.3
South Pacific	4	53.6	+ 0.9	- 3.5	- 0.3

PRECIPITATION.

A little more than half the normal amount of rain and snow fell in the New England, Middle, and South Atlantic States, and there was also a deficit in the Plateau region and the middle and south Pacific coast regions. The amount and distribution of precipitation east of the Rocky Mountains were largely influenced by the fact that three areas of low pressure moved from Texas northeastward in somewhat different paths, each, however, contributing a generous share of the total precipitation of the month. The rather unusual phenomenon of precipitation occurring from the Atlantic to the Pacific within a period of twelve consecutive hours was noted on the morning weather map of December 12. An area of low pressure had advanced from the north Pacific to the Dakotas where it was central on the morning of the 12th. Rain or snow was falling, or had fallen, along the northern boundary from the Pacific to the Dakotas and Minnesota. A second low of considerable depth, whose influence extended to the Atlantic Ocean, occupied the Lake region. Precipitation was occurring on the morning of the above named date, or had occurred within the previous twelve hours at 86 of the 117 stations, whose observations were telegraphed to the Central Office in Washington, D. C.

In Canada.—Professor Stupart says:

The precipitation was below average over British Columbia, Manitoba, and the southern portions of the Northwest Territories, below average over the Peninsula of Ontario, and in parts of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and elsewhere above the average. At Parry Sound the average was exceeded by 3.8 inches, at Kingston by 2.5 inches, at Montreal by 1.3 inches, and at Sydney by 3.0 inches. During the first three weeks of the month the precipitation was very largely rain, but during the last week it was in Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces nearly altogether snow. In British Columbia there was no snow on the ground at the end of the month; the Northwest Territories and Manitoba had only a light covering, or in some localities none. In Ontario it varied from a trace at southwestern stations to from 10 to 20 inches in northern localities. In Quebec it varied from 2 to 10 inches, and in the Maritime Provinces from 2 to 13 inches.