

**Climatological Data for August, 1910.**  
**DISTRICT No. 10, GREAT BASIN.**

ALFRED H. THIESSEN, District Editor.

**GENERAL CLIMATOLOGICAL CONDITIONS.**

The temperature for the district had averaged higher than normal for every month from March to July, inclusive; but during August it averaged below normal. Some very low temperatures were reported during the last decade, and killing frosts were recorded at many stations. The precipitation was much below normal.

**TEMPERATURE**

The average daily temperature for August was about 1.8° below normal, or 68.2°, and ranged from 76.2° at Oak City, Utah, to 54.2° at Truckee, Cal. It is probable that a higher mean temperature than 76.2° was experienced at Jean, Nev., but the record there for the month was somewhat broken, and therefore not available for comparison.

The greatest minus departures occurred in central Nevada, and the greatest plus departures, which, however, were small, in the southern portion of the Utah area.

The warmest portion of the month was during the first two decades, especially in the Utah area. The maximum temperatures for the month occurred on various dates, many stations reporting these data in the early part of the month, while others reported them as occurring during a warm period extending from the 17th to the 23d. The highest temperature reported was 106° at Jean, Nev., on the 4th and 5th, the next highest being 102° at Carlin, Nev., on the 7th, and at Corinne, Utah, on the 9th and 19th.

On the 25th very cool weather prevailed in the eastern portion of the district, when frosts were widespread and much vegetation was killed. However, there were no reports of serious losses, as the staple crops were pretty well gathered at that time. In Nevada the coolest weather occurred after the 27th. Frost formed in some localities, but in the agricultural districts it was too light to injure vegetation. Forty-five stations reported temperatures of 32° or below, the lowest being 20° at Truckee, Cal., on the 25th, at Carlin, Nev., on the 29th, and at Woodruff, Utah, on the 30th. The daily ranges in temperature during this month were particularly large, the greatest being 75° at Carlin, Nev.

**PRECIPITATION.**

For the district as a whole the monthly rainfall averaged 0.39 inch, which was 0.31 inch below normal. Very nearly every station reported amounts below normal; and of those whose monthly rainfall exceeded the normal amount, the excesses were small. Precipitation was showery, though the precipitation chart shows a comparatively equable distribution of moisture. The largest amounts fell in the southern portion of the Utah area and in the extreme southern portion of Nevada. Many stations in Nevada and in the Oregon area reported no rain. The largest monthly amount was 2.36 inches at Beaver, Utah, and the greatest 24-hour amount was 0.95 inch on the 11th at Pinto, Utah.

In Utah and Idaho most of the rain occurred from the 9th to the 13th, but numerous showers also fell at scattered stations during the first three days of the month and from the 19th to the 27th.

**MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA.**

Sunshine was abundant. At Salt Lake City, Utah, 73 per cent of the possible amount was recorded.

For the district there was an average of 21 clear, 7 partly cloudy, 3 cloudy, and 3 rainy days.

In the Utah area a general smoky condition due to forest fires was observed. The smoke came from the north, began

about the 25th, and extended as far south as the middle of the State.

**NOTES.**

A true and liberal meaning of conservation as applied to our natural resources has not always been made quite clear. The article following, by Governor Spry, of Utah, attaches to the term a broad economic significance, and in it he has referred generously to the work of the U. S. Weather Bureau, and especially to the use made of the statistics of the Climatological Service. The application of these statistics has indeed changed the definition of a desert so interestingly told in a following article by J. Cecil Alter. Many who read this article will remember how, not very long ago, the term was applied to whole territories. But now by improved methods of agriculture, carried on by the irrigation and dry farmer, a great portion of the so-called desert has or will rapidly disappear.

**RELATION OF THE WEATHER BUREAU TO THE CONSERVATION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.**

By Gov. WM. SPRY of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Of the many national problems brought conspicuously to the public notice in recent years, none has aroused such widespread interest and discussion and searching investigation as the problem of the conservation of our natural resources.

In the broad meaning of conservation, as applied to the nation's resources, an almost limitless field for cooperative action on the part of our citizens has been opened. Conservation which means not only the preserving of our natural resources, but their development and prudent and provident use, finds almost unanimous support. In many instances the consumption of our resources necessitates the activities of development and growth; and development and growth are better than conservation and preservation. Conservation aims at the estoppel of wanton waste; it strikes at the "skimming over" process which has held sway in the destruction of so many of our valuable resources; it aims to preserve for the public use and benefit the great natural assets of the nation as against their monopolization by the favored few; it has in view the restoration, so far as possible, of such of our resources as have been pillaged by the unscrupulous, and destroyed because of a lack of proper safeguards that have been made necessary by the changed conditions resulting from increased population and growing demand. In a word, the conservation movement means care, discretion, frugality, and judiciousness in the handling of our resources as against improvidence, prodigality, and wastefulness.

In the sense that conservation is development, the maintenance and upholding of the conservation policy is peculiarly within the province of the Weather Bureau. Precipitation, prevailing winds, temperature—these are all important considerations in the restoration of forest growth, and the controlling factors in the production of crops to serve and conserve the useful purposes and needs of man.

In the reclamation and development of the arid areas the Weather Bureau statistics furnish a substantial and sure basis upon which capital and energy can be invested. Warnings as to extreme weather conditions that endanger fruit crops, as furnished by the Bureau, are invaluable to the horticulturist. As the scope and purposes of the work of the Weather Bureau are more thoroughly understood, I am convinced that its reports and forecasts will be more generally followed as a guide in the development and conservation of our natural resources.