

THE WEATHER IN FINLAND IN 1920—A WARM YEAR.

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TEMPERATURE.

The weather in Finland in 1920 was considerably warmer than the normal. The following table shows the average temperature¹ at Helsingfors during the periods 1901-1910, 1911-1920, and 1831-1920:

	1901-1910	1911-1920	1831-1920
	°C.	°C.	°C.
January.....	-4.2	-6.3	-6.2
February.....	-4.9	-5.8	-6.5
March.....	-2.7	-3.0	-3.8
April.....	2.0	2.6	1.5
May.....	8.3	8.4	7.8
June.....	14.1	13.7	13.8
July.....	16.7	18.2	16.7
August.....	14.6	15.6	15.3
September.....	10.5	10.6	10.7
October.....	6.1	5.3	5.5
November.....	-0.3	1.0	0.1
December.....	-4.2	-3.2	-3.9
Year.....	4.7	4.8	4.2

It will be noticed that during the last 10 years the winter, especially in January, which has been normal, has been colder than during the preceding 10 years, while in November and December it has been warmer. The spring and summer, however, during the last 10 years have been comparatively warm, especially in April and July, the month of July having been the warmest on record during this period.

The variation of the temperature from the normal in 1920 and in each of the four preceding years is shown in the following table, which has been made by taking the average temperature in 10 different parts of the country during the years mentioned:

	1913	1917	1918	1919	1920
	°C.	°C.	°C.	°C.	°C.
January.....	2	-3	-5	2	-2
February.....	3	-5	1	-2	4
March.....	-1	-6	2	-1	5
April.....	1	-1	2	-1	2
May.....	-2	-2	-1	2	3
June.....	-1	3	-1	1	0
July.....	3	0	1	2	2
August.....	-2	4	-2	-1	1
September.....	-1	0	0	2	2
October.....	-3	3	3	0	-1
November.....	3	1	4	-4	3
December.....	1	1	1	-2	3
Year.....	0.2	-0.5	0.4	-0.2	2

Thus the average for 1920 was 2° C. warmer than the normal and was the warmest on record.

RAINFALL.

The following table shows in the same way the variation of the rainfall during the last five years, expressed

in percentage, 100 per cent being used to represent the normal rainfall:

	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
	Per cent.				
January.....	110	60	120	80	100
February.....	80	60	90	80	130
March.....	90	50	20	90	60
April.....	60	130	40	160	210
May.....	130	80	40	20	140
June.....	150	60	120	150	80
July.....	80	40	70	60	100
August.....	70	50	80	110	80
September.....	90	180	180	110	70
October.....	120	150	100	110	30
November.....	120	160	70	80	60
December.....	120	150	170	90	50
Year.....	101	97	96	97	86

Thus the year 1920 had 86 per cent of the normal rainfall. The latter part of the year has never been known to be as dry before, and there is likewise no record of there having been 50 per cent more rain in the spring than in the fall. It is usually the opposite, there being about 60 per cent more rain in the fall than in the spring. It is said that the continual high atmospheric pressure during the last year, especially the latter half of the year, was the cause of the dry weather.

With regard to the changes in the rainfall during the last 10 years we find analogies in the temperature, the colder winters, and the warmer summers portending drier weather.

MILD WINTER OF 1920-21 IN NORTHERN EUROPE.

(Translated from *La Nature (Supplement)*, Paris, Mar. 26, 1921, p. 98.)

It is not only in the region of France that the winter of 1920-21 has been remarkably mild. In northern Europe there has been an equal freedom from cold weather. At Christiania, according to a communication addressed to the press by the Meteorological Institute of Norway, the temperature during January, 1921, exceeded the normal by 2.7° C. (+4.9° F.) daily, while snow was rare.

On the other hand, the rainfall was very abundant—one result of the mild temperatures during the period under discussion; in amount it exceeded twice the normal—59 mm. instead of 26 mm.

Elsewhere, at the beginning of January, says the *Norges Handels-og Sjøfartstidende* of Christiania, the ports on the Gulf of Bothnia, ordinarily closed by heavy ice floes at that season, remained almost entirely open to navigation. The harbor of Helsingfors, in the Gulf of Finland, was likewise equally free of ice.

Lastly, a radiogram from Spitzbergen, under date of February 23, 1921, announces that the greater part of the fjords on the west coast of that polar land, namely, Isfjord, Bell Sound, and Kings Bay, were clear of ice on that date. This situation, though somewhat modified since then, still continues above normal. By the 5th of March Isfjord was still clear of ice over most of its area, as was the sea generally in Kings Bay. However, one striking result of this condition was to cause an ice invasion of the harbors in Kings Bay and Bell Sound.—*H. L.*

¹ All temperatures given are Centigrade.