

OBSERVATIONS FROM GREENLAND

Weather observations broadcast from the recently installed radio station at Julianehaab, Greenland, are now being received regularly in Europe, and since March 19 have been published on the British Daily Weather Maps. It is expected that these observations will shortly be regularly available in the United States and Canada. The Canadian radio station at Belle Isle is under instructions to pick up these messages, and is already receiving them irregularly. Julianehaab will also later collect and transmit weather messages from the low-power radio stations at Godthaab and Godhavn, on the west coast, and Angmagssalik, on the east coast of Greenland.—*W. E. Hurd.*

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NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

By WILLIS EDWIN HURD

A glance at the pressures over the North Pacific Ocean for March, 1926, shows again, as in January, a considerable departure from the average. The center of the Aleutian low was at Dutch Harbor, with a pressure of 29.27 inches, almost a half inch below the normal. The crest of the anticyclone lay a few hundred miles southwest of the Washington coast. At Tatoosh Island the monthly pressure of 30.15, was 0.17 inch above the average. Hence the normal March gradient of 0.24 inch between Dutch Harbor and Tatoosh Island increased this month to 0.95 inch, thus establishing an extraordinary gradient for the time of year.

The following pressure table gives data for several land stations:

TABLE 1.—Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure at sea level at indicated hours, North Pacific Ocean, March, 1926

Station	Average pressure	Departure from normal	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inch</i>	<i>Inches</i>		<i>Inches</i>	
Dutch Harbor <sup>1</sup> .....	29.20	-0.47	30.07	12th....	27.98	18th.
St. Paul <sup>1</sup> .....	29.45	-0.30	30.16	do.....	28.44	do.
Kodiak <sup>1</sup> .....	29.52	-0.23	30.22	30th....	28.56	19th.
Mitway Island <sup>1</sup> .....	30.06	-0.02	30.24	11th....	29.80	1st.
Honolulu <sup>2</sup> .....	30.07	+0.03	30.23	7th....	29.85	31st.
Juneau <sup>2</sup> .....	29.99	+0.05	30.52	23d....	29.12	21st.
Tatoosh Island <sup>2</sup> .....	30.15	+0.17	30.45	22d....	29.68	30th.
San Francisco <sup>2</sup> .....	30.03	-0.02	30.38	11th....	29.68	24th.
San Diego <sup>2</sup> .....	30.00	-0.02	30.30	do.....	29.74	do.

<sup>1</sup> P. m. observations only.  
<sup>2</sup> A. m. and p. m. observations.  
<sup>3</sup> Corrected to 24-hour mean.

NOTE.—Correction indicates telegraphed pressure readings for February, 1926, at Dutch Harbor, were too low. Average should be 29.25 instead of 29.20.

In connection with the active cyclonic circulation which continued over the greater part of the northern half of the ocean, gales and heavy snow squalls were frequent. The American steamer *West Hixton*, en route from Oregon toward Japan, reported snow squalls daily west of longitude 160° W., from the 1st to the 13th of March, when she arrived at her destination. More snow seems to have fallen along the northern steamship routes over the western two-thirds of the ocean than during any of the three previous months. On the contrary, over the eastern part of the Gulf of Alaska, probably less snow fell than usual. At Juneau, while precipitation was much more than the average, the total snowfall, 0.1 inch, was the least ever known for the month. This March was the second warmest on record at Juneau, and was the

warmest of record at various places along the American coast, including San Francisco and San Diego. The month was also warmer than the average at Honolulu.

Observations indicated few gales along the north American coastline. These include some moderate northeasters over and southwest of the Gulf of Tehuantepec, and the few gales reported by steamships off British Columbia. West of 140° W. gales were frequent to 170° E., but between there and the Japanese coast, from 30° to 50° N., they occurred on a greater number of days than elsewhere.

Two storms of considerable violence appeared upon the maps. On March 10 and 11 a cyclone emerged from Japan, accompanied by heavy snow and whole to hurricane gales east of Hokkaido, and lesser gales as far south as the Ogasawara Islands. As the storm moved eastward, near-hurricane winds accompanied it until the 13th. On that date gales of force 11 occurred over a considerable region south of Kamchatka. After the 13th the energy of the disturbance abated. Meanwhile, over the west-central Aleutians, there gathered one of the fluctuating centers of the Aleutian low. The progressive cyclone joined forces with it near the one hundred and eightieth meridian and 50° N., on the 17th, and from this merger there developed a vast low pressure area between Japan and British Columbia, at the center of which, Dutch Harbor, the pressure on the morning of the 18th had diminished to 27.98 inches. This was more than 2 inches lower than the pressure readings at that time at both Vancouver and the Hawaiian Islands. Singularly enough, despite the gradient, on that day there were no reports of gales exceeding force 9 on the ocean, but on the 19th near-hurricane winds were encountered in the neighborhood of 48° N., 155° W. The progressive movement of the storm continued, and the center entered the British northwest on the 21st.

The second important storm was in the process of development on the 26th as a secondary to the low then central over the Aleutians, but it was not until the following day, at which time it was central near 35° N., 150° W., that it acquired much energy. On the 28th and 29th it attained considerable violence in its northwestern quadrant, where gales of force 11 were experienced by steamers bound to or from the Hawaiian Islands. The storm took a rather extraordinary southward course, being central on the 29th at about 27° N., 152° W. On the 30th, in 25° N., it lost most of its energy, though it continued as a depression east to northeast of Hawaii until the end of the month.

The prevailing wind at Honolulu, as during many months past, was from the east, though the maximum wind velocity, 34 miles per hour, was from the southwest, during the formation of the cyclone to the northward on the 26th. March was the fifth consecutive month here with deficient precipitation, and the eighth with excess temperature.

Fog was observed less frequently than for several months past along our coast. There was little change in the frequency of its occurrence otherwise since February over the eastern part of the ocean. It was reported on the greatest number of days, principally during the last decade, near 50° N., 140° W. Reports of fog were infrequent from east longitudes, and it seems to have been confined largely to coastal waters east of Japan and between Hongkong and Shanghai.

An ice field about 5 miles in diameter was reported on the 10th, in 43° 04' N., 146° 28' E., and was also observed in the neighborhood on several other dates.