

WEATHER ON THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

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The number of days with gales in January was apparently equal to or slightly above the normal over the middle and western sections of the ocean, and somewhat below east of the thirtieth meridian. Both the Azores High and Icelandic Low, however, were well developed on a number of days, and at times the eastern section of the steamer lanes was swept by violent gales.

The number of days with fog was near the normal over the Grand Banks and below over the greater part of the steamer lanes. Fog was unusually prevalent in the Gulf of Mexico, as in the western portion of that body of water it was reported on six days.

TABLE 1.—Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure at sea level, 8 a. m. (seventy-fifth meridian), North Atlantic Ocean, January, 1927

Stations	Average pressure	Departure ¹	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	Inches	Inch	Inches		Inches	
Jullanshaab, Greenland.....	29.41	(²)	30.36	4th.....	28.11	26th.
Belle Isle, Newfoundland.....	29.86	+0.06	30.68	19th.....	28.72	3d.
Halifax, Nova Scotia.....	30.06	+0.05	30.66	13th.....	29.30	6th.
Nantucket.....	30.07	-0.02	30.84	27th.....	29.30	5th.
Hatteras.....	30.20	+0.08	30.74	27th.....	29.70	1st. ⁴
Key West.....	30.18	+0.09	30.34	12th.....	29.98	1st. ⁴
New Orleans.....	30.25	+0.13	30.50	15th.....	30.06	3d. ³
Swan Island.....	29.97	-0.01	30.04	6th ⁴	29.80	19th. ⁴
Turks Island.....	30.13	+0.08	30.22	22d ⁴	29.98	1st.
Bermuda.....	30.22	+0.09	30.54	13th.....	29.60	2d.
Horta, Azores.....	30.41	+0.31	30.74	13th.....	29.70	25th.
Lerwick, Shetland Islands.....	29.40	-0.30	30.02	19th.....	28.65	29th.
Valencia, Ireland.....	29.76	-0.14	30.61	10th.....	29.26	30th.
London.....	29.80	-0.20	30.48	10th.....	29.13	14th.

¹ From normals shown on H. O. Pilot Chart, based on observations at Greenwich mean noon, or 7 a. m. seventy-fifth meridian.

² Mean of 22 observations; 9 days missing.

³ No normal established.

⁴ And on other dates.

In December anticyclonic conditions prevailed in the vicinity of the European coast during long periods, while during January the conditions were reversed, low pressure being the rule on a number of days, especially during the last decade of the month. On the other hand, during this same period abnormally high barometric readings were recorded at stations on the American coast, as shown on Charts IX and X.

From the 2d to 12th there was considerable cyclonic activity over the western section of the ocean, the storm

area varying from day to day both in extent and intensity, and at times reaching as far south as the Bermudas.

From the 3d to 6th gales of from force 8 to 12 prevailed over the eastern section of the steamer lanes, the disturbance reaching its maximum on the last two dates, when central near 55° N., 30° W.

On the 12th a severe disturbance was central near 55° N., 20° W., and northerly to westerly gales were reported east of the thirtieth meridian until the 18th, although the storm area varied considerably during this period.

From the 19th to 22d moderate weather was the rule according to nearly all of the reports received, although one vessel in the middle section of the steamer lanes (lat. 52° 00' N.), reported northwest winds of hurricane force, associated with a steep barometric gradient (30.40-29.38) between the vessel's position and the southwest coast of Iceland.

On the 23d there was a severe disturbance, accompanied by hail, central near 50° N., 40° W., with strong northwest gales over the region from the center to the fortieth parallel. This low moved eastward, decreasing somewhat in intensity, and on the 25th was off the coast of Scotland.

Charts VIII to XI cover the period from the 26th to 29th, inclusive, when marked anticyclonic conditions prevailed over the western section of the ocean and cyclonic over the middle and eastern.

On the 27th the barometer reached the highest reading on record at stations on the Atlantic coast, at which time northeast gales of force 8 to 10 prevailed between Jacksonville and Hatteras, accompanied by readings of over 30.70 inches.

On the 30th and 31st a deep depression was off the north coast of Scotland, and on the former date moderate gales occurred between the tenth and twentieth meridians.

Note.—Mr. R. P. Ives, second officer American steamship *Wytheville*, Capt. John Hokenson, en route from New York to Rotterdam, reports as follows:

On January 26, at 9.25 a. m., G. M. T., in 48° 45' N., 18° 35' W., observed the forming of three waterspouts. The first appearance was that of a boiling area of water, with dark smoke rising, which later took a whirling motion. The first one, after forming a spout, traveled rapidly to the eastward and dissipated, forming a bright zigzag streak in the sky. The other two were killed by a heavy shower of hail. Fresh westerly breeze. Temperature of air 48°, water 56°. Sky cloudy.