

Government Meteorological Observatory.

METEOROLOGICAL Observations, Wellington, for the month of March, 1918. Observations taken 9 a.m.

Altitude of Observatory, 8 ft.

Date.	Barometer reduced and corrected in Inches to Lat. 45°.	From Self-registering Instruments for Twenty-four Hours previously.				Solar Radiation.	Terrestrial Radiation.	Veloc. Wind in Miles.	Amount of Cloud, 0 to 10.	Direction of Wind.	Rainfall, in Points (100 to 1 Inch).
		Max. Temp. in Shade.	Min. Temp. in Shade.	Mean Temp. in Shade.	Mean Temp. in Shade.						
1	30-257	Fah. 57.9	Fah. 55.0	Fah. 56.4	Fah. 129.0	50.0	331	10	SSE	..	
2	30-162	62.8	48.4	55.6	135.0	35.5	147	2	S.E.	76	
3	30-200	63.0	57.0	60.0	134.0	56.0	302	9	S.	..	
4	30-103	69.3	58.2	63.7	138.0	54.6	373	10	S.E.	21	
5	29-922	66.5	58.8	62.6	103.0	58.0	509	7	S.E.	2	
6	29-909	66.9	60.7	63.8	129.0	59.3	471	8	S.E.	3	
7	29-835	66.2	60.2	63.2	131.0	60.3	377	10	SSE	..	
8	29-769	76.3	63.7	70.0	135.0	58.3	163	4	Calm	..	
9	30-132	75.9	57.2	66.5	139.0	53.8	423	9	S.	..	
10	30-290	61.2	57.0	59.1	128.0	52.0	294	10	S.	..	
11	30-036	65.2	45.8	55.6	130.0	34.3	98	1	Calm	4	
12	30-136	69.6	54.7	62.1	134.0	52.9	261	9	S.	..	
13	30-247	60.6	45.2	52.9	130.0	34.2	141	8	Calm	..	
14	30-251	64.7	52.3	58.5	128.0	42.2	161	10	S.	..	
15	30-128	67.2	51.8	59.5	135.0	39.0	141	1	Calm	..	
16	29-936	70.6	51.0	60.8	139.0	93.0	126	5	N.	Trace	
17	29-949	68.6	60.5	64.5	135.0	58.0	277	10	N.	Trace	
18	29-889	68.4	60.8	64.6	145.0	57.1	229	10	N.	66	
19	29-000	71.0	59.0	65.0	122.0	56.2	166	10	N.	6	
20	29-259	69.8	60.2	65.0	115.0	54.9	498	8	WNW	7	
21	29-962	65.8	53.3	59.5	122.0	47.9	305	3	SSW	..	
22	30-009	65.5	50.7	58.1	121.0	39.8	245	7	N.W.	..	
23	29-915	67.9	52.9	60.4	133.0	42.0	191	6	N.	..	
24	30-237	70.5	54.5	62.5	131.0	51.0	310	8	S.	..	
25	30-350	61.7	43.7	52.7	126.0	31.6	127	0	N.E.	..	
26	30-303	67.4	56.7	62.0	126.0	45.9	149	0	N.	..	
27	30-208	75.0	57.7	66.3	132.0	45.1	139	9	N.E.	..	
28	30.044	67.2	60.2	63.7	118.0	56.5	198	10	N.	133	
29	29-865	67.3	55.8	61.5	99.0	55.3	234	10	S.	2	
30	30-200	60.3	54.5	57.4	93.0	53.1	441	10	S.	..	
31	30-064	58.9	51.3	55.1	105.0	43.8	148	9	N.	30	
*	30-031	66.7	55.1	60.9	126.0	48.9	257	7.2	..	350	
†	30-029	66.8	54.0	60.5	117.1	47.1	238	337	

* Means, &c. † Means previous years.

DIRECTION OF WIND.

N	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm.
8	2	..	4	11	..	1	1	4

NOTE.—The weather during the month has been fair to cloudy, with moderate to strong southerly winds predominating. The rainfall was slightly above the mean of previous years, the greater portion falling during the first and last weeks of the month. Total bright sunshine, 149 hours 31 minutes, and four sunless days. Frost was recorded on the grass on one morning. Mean dew-point, 53.2°; mean elastic force of vapour, 0.406 in.; and mean relative humidity, 76 per cent. of saturation.

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE.

MEANS AND TOTALS FROM THE CHIEF STATIONS.

March, 1918.

Altitude above Sea-level.	Name of Station and Observer.	Extremes.			Total Rainfall (100 Points to the Inch).	Days with Rain (4 Points or more)
		Absolute Mean Temp. Air in Shade.	Mean Max. Temp.	Mean Min. Temp.		
Ft. 125	NORTH ISLAND. AUCKLAND .. F. A. F. Burnett	Deg. 65.7	Deg. 72.0	Deg. 59.4	Points. 538	Dy. 17
46	TE AROHA .. G. F. McGirr	.. 61.6	71.9	51.4	321	13
925	ROTORUA .. W. Penno	.. 59.1	66.6	51.6	554	11
340	WAIHI .. P. A. Clifford	.. 63.1	73.1	53.2	1139	15
..	TAURANGA .. C. J. Butcher	.. 62.5	72.2	52.9	800	15
160	NEW PLYMOUTH .. W. W. Smith	.. 62.8	72.9	52.8	601	10
250	MOUMAHAKI .. T. W. Lonsdale	.. 59.8	69.1	50.5	180	3
2080	TAIHAPE .. A. R. Fannin	.. 56.0	63.7	48.3	292	10
100	PALMERSTON NORTH .. J. E. Vernon	.. 61.0	70.5	51.5	317	7
186	GREYTOWN .. W. C. Davies	.. 59.2	68.7	49.8	318	10
377	MASTERTON .. Wm. Hood	.. 59.7	69.6	49.9	421	16
70	GREENMEADOWS, NAPIER T. B. McBreen	61.4	68.6	54.2	207*	13
10	WELLINGTON ..	60.9	66.7	55.1	350	11
	SOUTH ISLAND.					
34	NELSON .. J. R. Dart	.. 64.2	72.4	56.1	567	6
1220	HANMER SPA .. Miss M. Stewart	.. 56.4	65.9	47.0	321	11
25	CHRISTCHURCH .. H. F. Skey	.. 58.3	65.1	51.5	212	11
42	LINCOLN .. L. J. Wild	.. 58.1	67.4	48.8	163	11
1220	KISSELTON .. A. R. Blackwood	.. 56.0	67.8	44.3	171	5
..	RAKAI .. Miss A. Hardy	.. 57.9	67.6	48.3	222	10
130	TIMARU .. Caretaker of Domain	.. 59.0	67.9	50.1	309	10
200	WAIMATE .. F. Akhurst	.. 57.0	64.7	49.3	317	9
300	DUNEDIN .. D. Tannock	.. 57.7	63.9	51.6	396	8
245	GORE .. H. Dolamore	.. 56.8	67.7	45.9	419	11
12	HOKITIKA .. W. H. Fleming	.. 59.8	67.8	51.9	886	9
12	INVERCARGILL .. L. Lennie	.. 56.5	65.6	47.4	294	11

* Napier rainfall.

SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1918.

The outstanding meteorological feature of March was the intense cyclone which was responsible for very stormy conditions between the 18th and 20th. Of tropical origin, the centre apparently passed down from westward of Norfolk Island, and on the morning of the 19th was located off Farewell Spit. On the 20th it had passed to the south-east of the Dominion. The worst effects were experienced generally on the 19th, but stormy conditions also prevailed in the northern districts on the 18th and in the southern districts on the 20th.

During the height of the storm on the 19th the heavy northerly gales caused bush fires to sweep over the district about Raetihi, resulting in most serious losses to the settlers.

The rainfall accompanying the storm was generally not as much as might have been expected, but the southernmost districts on the 20th, experienced some heavy precipitation, which caused floods in many of the rivers.

Our observer at New Plymouth, Mr. W. W. Smith, referring to the storm, says: "After inquiries among the oldest settlers in New Plymouth there can be no doubt that the cyclonic storm on the 19th and 20th was the severest known, alike to Europeans and Maoris, in their lifetime."

Many observers in different parts of New Zealand, also Mr. L. H. Steel, the observer at Chatham Islands, express a similar opinion.

Two other disturbances were in evidence during the month, both passing in the north—one which ruled between the 3rd and 9th, and the other from the 29th to the end of the month.

Some heavy rains were reported about these two periods, especially in the east coast districts of the North Island, and the former disturbance accounted for persistent south-east gales and very heavy seas between Cape Campbell and East Cape. Between the 8th and 16th, and the 21st and 27th, anticyclonic conditions ruled, and fair weather was experienced generally.

Except in Westland, and at a few scattered places elsewhere, the total rainfall for the month was well above the average.

D. C. BATES, Director.