

Government Meteorological Observatory.

METEOROLOGICAL Observations, Wellington, for the month of March, 1922. Observations taken 9 a.m.

Altitude of Observatory, 10 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.	Fah.	Fah.						
1	29.745	70.7	64.3	67.5	134.0	61.0	436	9	N.W.	33		
2	29.526	71.2	64.8	68.0	135.0	62.7	442	10	N.W.	241		
3	29.651	67.4	55.3	61.3	110.0	54.3	364	9	S.	..		
4	29.565	65.9	54.0	59.9	124.0	46.9	203	1	N.	..		
5	29.510	67.7	57.3	62.5	128.0	47.0	372	6	W.N.W.	..		
6	29.860	67.0	44.2	55.6	131.0	35.2	217	1	W.	..		
7	29.969	68.3	53.4	60.8	131.0	43.7	226	0	N.N.W.	..		
8	29.887	68.2	61.6	64.9	126.0	58.6	449	4	N.W.	..		
9	29.917	74.5	52.5	63.5	143.0	43.0	291	9	N.W.	5		
10	30.056	66.0	45.5	55.7	129.0	34.0	388	0	E.N.E.	..		
11	29.991	70.3	45.5	57.9	126.0	34.3	148	4	N.W.	..		
12	29.796	68.0	57.0	62.5	130.0	48.3	381	3	N.W.	4		
13	29.809	70.4	61.2	65.8	127.0	57.5	378	7	W.	..		
14	29.888	72.0	55.5	63.7	136.0	47.1	189	2	N.N.W	29		
15	29.720	64.8	54.3	59.5	127.0	52.2	411	10	S.	9		
16	29.406	60.9	45.2	53.0	112.0	35.6	236	9	N.W.	..		
17	29.197	65.5	49.3	57.4	122.0	38.2	258	9	S.	28		
18	29.530	62.1	44.3	53.2	120.0	36.9	130	9	N.	Trace		
19	29.510	64.9	53.9	59.4	120.0	46.2	265	5	S.	1		
20	29.433	67.6	50.5	59.0	121.0	41.7	178	9	W.N.W.	17		
21	29.140	67.5	54.4	60.9	119.0	50.2	426	9	N.W.	23		
22	29.280	65.0	51.6	58.3	122.0	48.2	254	8	S.	..		
23	29.347	63.3	46.7	55.0	126.0	37.6	134	9	W.N.W.	Trace		
24	29.306	62.7	52.7	57.7	112.0	42.0	273	9	N.W.	..		
25	29.767	69.0	49.0	59.0	132.0	39.5	93	8	N.E.	120		
26	29.806	66.6	55.0	60.8	123.0	52.1	195	10	N.N.W	136		
27	29.709	66.3	58.2	62.2	126.0	55.1	219	9	N.	12		
28	29.470	72.0	54.8	63.4	135.0	53.5	180	10	S.	14		
29	29.348	64.3	55.0	59.6	111.0	51.7	235	3	N.W.	..		
30	29.698	69.2	56.9	63.0	121.0	46.8	256	6	W.	..		
31	30.034	64.5	46.2	55.3	122.0	34.5	118	7	N.E.	9		
*	29.641	67.2	53.2	60.2	125.2	46.3	269.2	6.6	..	681		
†	29.981	69.2	55.7	62.5	123.5	48.3	236	323		

* Means, &c. † Means previous years.

DIRECTION OF WIND.

N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm.
6	2	1	..	6	..	6	10	..

NOTE.—A wet unsettled month, with precipitation 111 per cent. above the mean of previous years, and barometric pressure, temperatures, and sunshine below the average, while strong N.W. winds prevailed. Total bright sunshine 180 hours 54 minutes, 47 per cent. of the possible, and two sunless days. Mean earth-temperature at 1 ft. was 62.5°, and 62.9° at 3 ft. Mean dew-point, 51°; mean elastic force of vapour, 0.374 in.; and mean relative humidity, 72 per cent. of saturation.

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE.

MEANS AND TOTALS FROM THE CHIEF STATIONS.

March, 1922.

Altitude above Sea-level.	Name of Station and Observer.	Absolute Mean Temp. Air in Shade.	Extremes.		Total Rainfall (100 Points to one inch).	Days with Rain (4 Point or more).
			Mean Max. Temp.	Mean Min. Temp.		
Ft. 125	NORTH ISLAND. AUCKLAND .. F. A. F. Burnett	Deg. 64.2	Deg. 70.3	Deg. 58.2	Points. 620	Dys. 20
131	RUAKURA FARM, HAMILTON EAST W. B. Monro	60.2	70.4	50.1	846	21
46	TE AROHA .. G. F. McGirr	61.7	70.5	52.9	551	19
340	WAIHI .. C. F. Sims	62.2	70.2	54.3	676	20
100	TAURANGA .. C. J. Butcher	61.0	70.7	51.4	789	20
925	ROTORUA .. W. E. Penno	60.0	69.1	51.0	1021	14
..	NEW PLYMOUTH .. J. Simpson	61.7	68.1	55.3	696	22
250	MOUMAHAKI .. J. G. McFarlane	58.1	64.9	51.3	633	26
2080	TAIHAPE .. A. R. Fanning	54.5	61.4	47.7	495	22
100	PALMERSTON NORTH .. J. A. Colquhoun	59.6	67.6	51.7	586	22
119	CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT FARM, WERAROA J. Beverley	59.0	65.2	52.8	577	18
70	GREENMEADOWS, NA- PIER	63.0	71.9	54.1	163	9
377	MASTERTON .. R. Brown	58.9	69.2	48.7	582	17
186	GREYTOWN .. J. P. Eccleton	59.9	69.3	50.5	586	17
10	WELLINGTON .. Ven. Archdeacon Kempthorne	60.2	67.2	53.2	681	15
..	SOUTH ISLAND. BRIGHTWATER .. Ven. Archdeacon Kempthorne	58.0	67.8	48.3	584	15
34	NELSON .. Wm. C. Davies	58.2	67.8	48.6	522	14
1220	HANMER SPRINGS .. W. G. Morrison	53.8	65.0	42.6	459	13
25	CHRISTCHURCH .. H. F. Skey	56.6	66.7	46.6	268	16
42	LINCOLN .. Wm. C. Purdie	56.1	66.6	45.7	267	17
1220	KISSELTON .. A. R. Blackwood	52.7	63.3	42.2	326	9
..	RAKAIA .. Miss A. Hardy	56.2	66.8	45.6	328	14
130	TIMARU .. Caretaker of Domain	56.1	65.4	46.9	280	18
200	WAIMATE .. F. Akhurst	55.0	64.0	46.0	305	17
300	DUNEDIN .. D. Tannock	52.4	58.7	46.1	693	26
245	GORE .. A. T. Newman	51.4	60.7	42.2	607	22
12	HOKITIKA .. J. A. Chesney	54.8	62.3	47.3	1287	24
12	INVERCARGILL .. L. Lennie	51.4	59.2	43.7	910	29

SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1922.

Westerly disturbances were frequent during the month of March, and all parts of the Dominion with a westerly aspect had rainfalls considerably above the average. Gisborne and Napier districts on the East Coast, however, reported little more than half the normal for the month. There were floods in Westland in the beginning of the month. Some exceptionally heavy winds were recorded on the 16th and 17th in various parts, when lowest barometric pressure was recorded in the South. Stormy weather continued generally until the close of the month. These heavy winds were mostly regarded as "Equinoctial gales," although it does not appear that they have really any connection with the Equinox.

Thunderstorms were prevalent at this period.

On the 26th an unusual visitant to New Zealand, in the shape of a tornado, made its appearance at Wellsford, seventy-three miles north-east of Auckland, and its track was marked by considerable damage in destruction of trees, houses, and sheds, though fortunately without loss of life. Mr. Osborn described the oncoming of the storm as follows:—

"It looked rather misty outside, and we were sitting on the couch by the window talking about the weather, one passing the remark that it looked like rain. It commenced to blow then, but not very hard at the start. The door was open, and I and my wife walked over to close it. The cyclone looked about ten chains off. It just seemed to look like one big cloud in the middle of a lot of mist. Just when I closed the door it hit us hard. A blinding flash of lightning seemed to be the prelude to the 'big noise.' Everything was then one big roar. The whole sky seemed to swirl round about our house, and the force of the wind was terrific."

The small house then rose bodily with its three inmates and was swirled round in the air, and after being carried some distance was smashed to matchwood, and papers were found twenty miles away.

On the same evening a water-spout was seen at the distance of about twenty miles, and it was believed to have connection with the tornado. It was described as a great pillar of water rising from the sea to black low-lying clouds, sweeping hundreds of feet of water at its base and travelling rapidly with irresistible force.

D. C. BATES, Director.