

Government Meteorological Observatory.

METEOROLOGICAL Observations, Wellington, for the month of May, 1923. Observations taken 9 a.m.

Altitude of Observatory, 10 ft.

Date.	Barometer reduced and corrected in Inches to Lat. 48°.	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.	Solar Radia-tion.	Terrestrial Radiation.						
1	30.394	60.0	39.2	49.6	112.0	29.0	59	10	E.	..	..
2	30.211	61.2	44.2	53.0	110.0	39.7	138	7	N.	..	..
3	29.966	62.8	52.2	57.5	117.0	44.2	136	8	N.N.E.	7	..	
4	29.698	64.8	56.1	60.4	111.0	51.3	194	8	N.W.	61	..	
5	29.704	63.0	46.4	54.7	118.0	44.2	289	10	S.S.E.	54	..	
6	29.575	57.0	45.0	51.0	84.0	42.6	627	10	S.	200	..	
7	29.795	59.5	49.3	54.4	62.0	48.3	318	10	Calm	136	..	
8	29.840	59.7	50.4	55.0	83.0	42.5	206	9	S.E.	37	..	
9	29.847	58.5	44.8	51.6	86.0	35.6	147	10	S.S.E.	110	..	
10	29.733	57.9	51.8	54.8	70.0	51.0	258	10	S.S.W.	Trace	..	
11	29.869	57.9	50.7	54.3	95.0	42.0	117	3	N.N.E.	Trace	..	
12	29.739	63.2	54.2	58.7	113.0	52.0	235	4	N.N.W.	7	..	
13	29.492	61.2	53.8	57.5	103.0	48.3	369	4	N.W.	..	..
14	29.444	58.7	39.6	49.1	116.0	30.2	151	10	WNW	24	..	
15	29.614	57.2	51.2	54.2	91.0	41.7	228	6	WSW	11	..	
16	29.994	57.7	43.3	50.5	106.0	32.5	200	1	S.	..	..
17	29.946	56.3	36.8	46.5	104.0	26.8	169	5	N.	5	..	
18	29.756	56.2	47.8	52.0	109.0	45.5	269	7	N.W.	..	..
19	29.784	59.4	43.8	51.6	115.0	33.2	199	7	E.N.E.	13	..	
20	29.758	56.3	46.3	51.3	83.0	40.2	10	6	E.N.E.	Trace	..	
21	29.651	67.0	50.2	58.6	121.0	44.0	38	6	N.	4	..	
22	29.674	63.6	55.8	59.7	112.0	53.9	333	9	N.W.	13	..	
23	29.641	62.8	55.2	59.0	111.0	51.2	398	2	N.N.W.	58	..	
24	29.826	60.2	48.6	54.4	112.0	45.7	431	1	N.W.	Trace	..	
25	29.952	60.2	54.2	57.2	110.0	51.0	473	8	N.W.	20	..	
26	29.833	60.9	55.7	58.3	105.0	54.9	492	4	N.W.	2	..	
27	29.800	61.3	55.7	58.5	107.0	51.6	416	3	N.	133	..	
28	29.658	60.3	46.3	53.3	104.0	45.0	282	10	S.	9	..	
29	29.825	52.0	46.0	49.0	88.0	42.2	325	1	S.	1	..	
30	30.036	54.8	43.6	49.2	99.0	37.2	297	2	S.	..	..
31	29.851	54.3	36.7	45.5	104.0	26.5	81	7	N.	43	..	
*	29.803	59.5	48.2	53.9	102.0	42.7	254.4	6.4	..	..	948
†	29.971	58.2	47.2	52.7	95.3	40.4	220	5.7	..	..	473

* Means, &c. † Means previous years.

DIRECTION OF WIND.

N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm.
9	..	3	1	8	..	2	7	1

NOTE.—A wet month, with precipitation 100 per cent. above the mean of previous years. Total bright sunshine, 102 hours 1 minute, 33 per cent. of the possible, and six sunless days. Frost was recorded on the grass on four mornings. Thunder occurred on the 15th and 23rd, fog on the 21st, and hail fell on the 23rd. Mean earth-temperature at 1 ft. was 52.7°, and 55.1° at 3 ft. Mean dew-point, 47.6°; mean elastic force of vapour, 0.330 in.; and mean relative humidity, 77 per cent. of saturation.

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE.
MEANS AND TOTALS FROM THE CHIEF STATIONS.
May, 1923.

Altitude above Sea-level.	Name of Station and Observer.	Extremes.			Total Rainfall (100 Points to the Inch).	Days with Rain (4 Point or more).
		Absolute Mean Temp. Air in Shade.	Mean Max. Temp.	Mean Min. Temp.		
Ft. 125	NORTH ISLAND. AUCKLAND ..	Deg. 58.0	Deg. 62.9	Deg. 53.2	Points. 413	26
131	RUAKURA FARM, HAMILTON EAST W. B. Monro	53.3	62.8	43.8	462	19
46	TE AROHA .. W. O'Connell	56.9	64.5	49.4	376	18
340	WAIHI .. C. F. Sims.	55.0	63.4	46.6	1082	22
100	TAURANGA .. C. J. Butcher	54.8	61.9	47.7	584	24
925	ROTORUA .. W. E. Penno	52.5	60.8	44.3	749	20
60	NEW PLYMOUTH .. G. H. Dolby	54.1	60.0	48.3	608	23
250	MOUMAHAKI .. J. G. McFarlane	51.5	60.2	42.8	700	17
2080	TAIHAPE .. A. R. Fannin	48.4	54.6	42.2	573	24
100	PALMERSTON NORTH .. J. A. Colquhoun	52.2	60.5	43.9	483	17
5	OROUA DOWNS .. H. D. Stride	51.0	59.6	42.5	327	22
119	CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT FARM, WERAROA J. E. Sharp	52.3	59.2	45.5	397	20
377	MASTERTON .. R. Brown	52.0	60.2	43.8	896	20
186	GREYTOWN .. W. Allan	51.8	59.8	43.9	883	19
10	WELLINGTON ..	53.9	59.5	48.2	948	21
87	SOUTH ISLAND. BRIGHTWATER .. Ven. Archdeacon Kempthorne	50.4	58.6	42.2	841	23
34	NELSON .. Wm. C. Davies	51.5	58.6	44.4	1033	21
1220	HANMER SPRINGS .. W. G. Morrison	45.8	54.6	37.1	1969	14
25	CHRISTCHURCH .. H. F. Skey	47.5	54.7	40.3	680	17
42	LINCOLN .. M. J. Scott	47.6	55.7	39.6	479	13
1220	KISSELTON .. F. Freeman	46.3	57.0	35.6	651	13
349	RAKAI .. Miss A. Hardy	47.5	55.8	39.2	1078	16
130	TIMARU .. Caretaker of Domain	45.9	53.5	38.4	464	15
200	WAIMATE .. F. Akhurst	45.8	54.0	37.7	347	18
300	DUNEDIN .. D. Tannock	47.6	53.6	41.7	448	10
245	GORE .. A. T. Newman	..	..	..	..	..
12	HOKITIKA .. J. A. Chesney	50.2	58.0	42.5	1119	17
12	INVERCARGILL .. L. Lennie	44.7	53.7	35.8	242	19

SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 1923.

The month opened with anticyclonic conditions and fair weather, but on the 3rd there was evidence of the development of a cyclone to the westward. On the 5th the centre of the latter was located in the North, while pressure increasing in the South at the same time caused a very steep baric gradient, especially along the eastern coast. This resulted in a south-east storm, and the north-east districts of the South Island registered what, so far, constitutes a record rainfall for these parts. The heaviest rains, which occurred on the 6th and 7th, accounted for serious floods and damage. On the 6th, at Stag and Spey, Kaikoura, 16.69 inches were recorded, and at Keinton Combe in the Waiuku district 14.40 inches, of which amount 13 inches fell in twelve hours. To give some idea of the intensity of these downpours it may be mentioned that the average month's rainfall for stations in these districts is between three and four inches.

Another, though smaller, disturbance passed in the North between the 18th and 21st, and this was followed by an extensive westerly low-pressure area. This depression brought very unsettled conditions, especially in and southward of Cook Strait, and some very heavy rains to the West Coast districts of the South Island between the 22nd and 27th. Otira recorded a total of 40.33 inches for the month, which mostly fell in the latter period.

The aggregate rainfall was above the average in all parts of the Dominion, except in Southland district and in the vicinity of the towns of Auckland and New Plymouth.

The monthly temperatures recorded were above the average, and the general character of the weather may therefore be described as mild, dull, and moist.

D. C. BATES, Director.