

The weather from the 6th to the 11th, during which such widespread and, in many places, heavy rain fell, was of a very unusual type. On the 4th a small but rather intense anticyclone was centred over Otago, and owing to the steep pressure gradients to the north-eastward, strong southerly winds, reaching gale force at many places, blew from Cook Strait northwards. The characteristics of this anticyclone suggested some unusual activity to the east or north-east. During the 5th and 6th a southern depression advanced over the South Tasman Sea and crossed the Dominion with much decreased intensity, rain setting in over the southern districts. This was followed by a feeble anticyclone. On the 7th a shallow cyclone was centred over the Tasman Sea. From this point onwards northerly or north-easterly winds set in over the New Zealand area, and the period of unsettled weather commenced. Pressure began to rise over, and especially to the eastward of, New Zealand. The unusual phenomenon was therefore experienced of northerly winds and wet weather accompanying a rising barometer. The cyclone from the Tasman Sea crossed the South Island on the 9th, but was so shallow as to be scarcely recognizable on our charts. The heaviest rain occurred on this day. After the passage of the cyclone there was a further rise of pressure which reached 30.63 in. at Chatham Islands on the 11th. Winds continued northerly. Throughout the period it was evident that some other influence than the usual march of pressure systems from the westward was exercising a control over the weather. The sources of this influence were probably in the regions to the east of New Zealand. The very mild conditions combined with the heavy rains led to a rapid growth of grass.

A somewhat similar condition followed in the period from the 12th to the 16th. Northerly gales were experienced on the 12th to the 14th, while an intense southern depression was advancing over the South Tasman Sea. This depression filled up on crossing the Dominion as did that of the 6th, and following it pressure was again high at Chatham Island. A cyclone then developed in the Central Tasman Sea and crossed Canterbury on the 16th. Rains were once more widespread with many heavy falls. In the Cook Strait region, the rate at which the rain fell on the 16th was remarkable. At one stage 20 points were recorded in six minutes at Wellington, and in a space of one hour 74 points fell. There were northerly gales on the 16th.

On the 21st, following the passage on the 20th of a southern low-pressure wave, which deepened when in the neighbourhood of Chatham Island, there were strong south-westerly winds to gales, and rain fairly general except in some of the eastern districts.

A rather intense cyclone crossed the southern portion of the South Island on the 26th and 27th, causing general rain. This was followed by the development of a second cyclone in the Northern Tasman Sea, which increased in intensity and advanced eastward. This cyclone was west of Auckland on the 30th, and caused general rain with very heavy falls in all northern districts and heavy falls in many other parts, especially in eastern districts. In the twenty-four hours subsequent to 9 a.m. on the 30th, the barometer fell over an inch at many places from Wellington southwards. Severe gales blew on this day. The direction was between east and north-east at most places, but was deflected to south-east in parts of Cook Strait. The severity was greatest in the Auckland Province, where much minor damage was done to shipping, buildings, telegraph and power lines, &c. Smaller damage was done in other centres, including Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin.

EDWARD KIDSON, Director.

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE.  
MEANS AND TOTALS FROM CHIEF STATIONS.  
April, 1928.

Altitude above Sea-level.	Name of Station and Observer.	Mean Temp. Air in Shade.	Extremes.		Total Rainfall (100 Points to the Inch).	Days with Rain (½ Point or more).	Altitude above Sea-level.	Name of Station and Observer.	Mean Temp. Air in Shade.	Extremes.		Total Rainfall (100 Points to the Inch).	Days with Rain (½ Point or more).
			Mean Max. Temp.	Mean Min. Temp.						Mean Max. Temp.	Mean Min. Temp.		
66	NORTH ISLAND. RIVERHEAD .. W. J. McKibbin	Deg. 57.7	Deg. 69.1	Deg. 46.4	Points. 276	14	186	NORTH ISLAND—contd. GREYTOWN .. W. Allan	Deg. 59.7	Deg. 63.4	Deg. 50.1	Points. 636	12
159	AUCKLAND .. H. M. Vincent	64.5	70.3	58.7	490	21	10	WELLINGTON .. ..	59.5	64.9	54.1	582	10
191	RUAKURA FARM, HAMILTON EAST A. Stuart	61.7	72.6	50.8	447	17	34	SOUTH ISLAND. NELSON .. O. B. Pemberton ..	59.3	64.6	54.0	734	13
211	MATAMATA .. W. Halligan	59.9	70.4	49.5	797	12	..	BALMORAL, CULVERDEN D. D. Dunn	56.8	65.8	47.9	95	8
46	TE AROHA .. C. E. Christensen	62.9	72.3	53.6	684	10	1220	HANMER SPRINGS .. W. Montgomery	56.3	65.6	47.1	176	15
340	WAIHI .. F. Haszard	62.0	69.1	54.9	1434	12	25	CHRISTCHURCH .. H. F. Skey	56.4	64.4	48.5	124	12
100	TAURANGA .. Miss K. Butcher	60.7	70.8	50.7	514	13	42	LINCOLN .. D. J. Sidey	57.5	66.2	48.8	130	11
925	ROTORUA .. W. E. Penno	59.2	68.0	50.5	901	13	1220	LAKE COLERIDGE .. E. T. Cockburn	59.5	73.8	45.3	461	16
..	ROTORUA NURSERY, WHAKAREWAREWA W. T. Morrison	..	..	49.6	565	17	1200	"RUDSTONE," METHVEN James Carr	54.7	63.4	46.1	302	12
60	NEW PLYMOUTH .. G. H. Dolby	62.2	67.9	56.6	419	14	323	ASHBURTON .. H. P. Clayton	55.6	64.4	46.8	248	13
2125	KARIOI .. H. E. Fache	52.6	64.0	41.2	216	16	1000	FAIRLIE .. J. Fraser	52.1	62.9	41.3	449	17
2080	TAHAPÉ .. A. R. Fannin	57.1	63.9	50.4	210	16	2350	LAKE TEKAPO .. R. R. Beauchamp	50.6	62.6	38.6	490	6
100	PALMERSTON NORTH .. J. A. Colquhoun	60.5	68.3	52.8	349	11	56	TIMARU .. Caretaker of Domain	55.2	63.7	46.7	374	14
8	TANGIMOANA .. T. E. Stringer	62.6	69.8	55.5	430	14	200	WAIMATE .. F. Akhurst	54.3	63.6	45.1	580	15
119	CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT FARM, WERAROA J. E. Sharp	61.3	68.5	54.2	453	14	1550	SANATORIUM, WAIPIATA Dr. A. Kidd	51.6	61.4	41.9	367	14
5	NAPIER .. Chas. L. Thomas	62.9	70.2	55.7	91	7	1000	OPHIR .. Rev. A. Don	51.8	61.8	41.3	329	12
45	HASTINGS .. E. W. Watson	60.2	70.6	49.8	248	8	300	DUNEDIN .. D. Tannock	55.1	62.5	47.8	435	16
384	MANGAMUTU, PAHIATUA .. A. W. Hamilton	60.1	67.9	52.4	761	15	142	BURNSIDE, DUNEDIN P. W. Piper	54.3	60.4	48.3	391	16
377	MASTERTON .. R. Brown	59.8	69.3	50.4	539	12	245	GORE .. A. T. Newman	52.1	61.3	43.0	586	16
							12	HOKITIKA .. J. A. Chesney	59.2	64.7	53.8	1675	23
							12	INVERCARGILL .. L. Lennie	52.9	62.2	43.7	499	18