

Government Meteorological Observatory.

METEOROLOGICAL Observations at Kelburn, Wellington, for the Month of March, 1931. Observations taken at 9 a.m.

Altitude of Observatory, 415 ft.

Date.	Pressure, in Inches, at Sea-level and Standard Gravity.	Temperature (°F.) from Observations at 9 a.m.							Wind.			Rainfall, in Points: (100 Points = 1 Inch).	Bright Sunshine: Hours and Tenths.	Weather (Symbols) at 9 a.m.
		In Screen.					Minimum on Grass.	Solar Radiation: Maximum.	Beaufort Scale.		Anemo-meter.			
		At 9 a.m.			Maxi-mum.	Mini-mum.			Direction.	Force.				
		Dry.	Wet.	Humid-ity.										
1	30-178	58.2	54.1	75	61.0	52.4	50.0	127.7	SSE	4	436	..	10.6	bc
2	30-206	58.7	52.8	66	64.6	49.3	43.8	131.9	SE	1	138	3	8.9	b
3	30-218	51.0	46.4	68	54.0	48.0	47.7	108.0	SE	4	142	1	1.4	o
4	30-237	53.7	49.5	73	56.0	47.2	45.8	116.0	S	5	293	1	6.5	o
5	30-300	55.9	50.5	67	64.3	49.1	47.9	132.6	SE	2	224	..	6.0	c
6	30-193	57.9	53.8	75	62.5	51.1	47.2	119.2	NNW	3	115	..	5.4	c
7	30-178	60.0	55.5	74	62.1	53.8	50.3	115.0	NNW	4	191	..	1.3	o
8	30-495	56.0	51.6	73	60.2	51.5	51.0	124.2	SSE	5	211	..	10.6	b
9	30-419	60.2	53.9	64	68.8	45.4	37.6	136.7	NNE	1	127	..	8.9	bz
10	30-238	61.2	57.2	77	64.1	58.7	57.0	109.0	NNW	5	305	16	0.5	oz
11	30-030	61.0	60.7	98	66.7	59.0	58.2	123.9	NW	6	524	..	6.0	o
12	30-203	61.2	56.8	75	68.0	54.3	51.9	134.1	NW	3	269	..	7.3	bcz
13	30-358	60.0	53.4	62	68.7	49.1	40.4	125.1	NE	1	71	..	11.3	bz
14	30-330	62.3	55.7	63	67.4	54.2	51.9	125.0	NV	4	192	..	11.2	b
15	30-138	60.4	54.9	68	63.2	54.0	50.3	126.0	NNW	6	227	..	8.4	c
16	30-002	63.2	59.8	81	69.8	57.0	55.9	124.8	NNW	4	304	4	10.3	bc
17	29-867	59.2	59.0	99	64.3	57.9	57.1	140.2	NW	4	368	..	1.9	omr
18	29-782	60.0	51.8	53	63.8	46.4	42.1	119.7	NW	3	256	..	11.4	b
19	30-140	51.7	48.3	77	59.0	51.1	46.1	132.1	SE	4	275	..	6.8	o
20	30-358	56.3	50.0	61	63.5	45.1	34.9	122.3	ENE	1	102	..	10.8	bz
21	30-306	60.9	57.0	78	63.9	49.1	43.0	125.0	NNW	3	98	..	8.8	bc
22	30-248	59.4	55.1	74	62.1	56.5	53.6	104.4	N	6	432	..	1.3	o
23	30-092	61.1	59.5	90	62.7	58.7	57.2	81.3	NV	5	495	8	0.0	og
24	30-079	59.7	58.0	90	69.7	55.0	53.6	126.1	NNE	1	336	4	6.0	omr
25	29-926	57.9	57.2	96	62.0	54.4	49.8	116.0	NW	3	127	Trace	4.9	omr
26	29-850	55.0	53.0	87	55.3	51.1	44.7	96.2	SE	3	288	9	0.0	o
27	30-034	52.3	47.3	66	55.4	49.0	47.0	120.8	SE	4	243	9	6.4	o
28	30-305	50.9	47.0	73	55.4	45.2	43.1	118.5	SE	4	291	..	4.3	c
29	30-235	54.2	50.1	73	58.8	44.0	34.1	118.0	S	1	112	..	3.3	o
30	30-003	56.8	53.2	77	64.0	46.1	37.0	122.0	NNW	2	57	9	9.2	bc
31	29-915	61.2	55.4	67	67.0	53.2	49.2	127.5	NW	3	309	..	9.0	b
Means, &c.	30-157	58.0	53.8	75	62.8	51.5	47.7	120.9	..	3.4	244	64	198.7	..

Mean earth temperature at 1 ft. and 3 ft., 60.8°. Number of rain days, 10.

DIRECTION OF WIND.

Gale (force 8 or more).	Forces 4 to 7.	Calm.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
..	16	..	5½	2½	½	8	3	..	..	11½

NOTE.—A cold, dry, and sunny month, with rainfall at Karori Reservoir, near Kelburn, 82 per cent. below the average. Total bright sunshine, 198.7 hours, 52 per cent. of the possible, and two sunless days. Mean dew-point, 49.9°; and mean vapour pressure, 0.358 in.

SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1931.

General.—March was a very dry month practically throughout the country. Fortunately there were comparatively few strong winds, and most of the rainfall was of a steady nature. These conditions, together with the cool temperatures, were responsible for the maximum amount of good being derived from such rain as fell. In most districts further considerable rains are, nevertheless, required if supplies of winter feed for stock are to be adequate. And the rain must come soon, or temperatures will be too low to promote extensive growth of pasture. At present stock are, on the whole, in good condition, and crops have harvested well. In the greater part of the Hawke's Bay and Poverty Bay districts, where rain was most needed, there were good falls towards the end of the month, and the situation was considerably relieved. In parts of South Auckland, the Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Manawatu, and Wairarapa districts stock are feeling the effects of continued low temperatures and rather scanty feed.

Rainfall.—On the average for the whole Dominion the rainfall was only about half the normal total for March. In the North Island it was considerably less. The only places where the normal fall was approached were Poverty Bay and parts of the West Coast of the South Island.

Temperature.—Temperatures were everywhere below the average for March. In the North Island the deficit was between 2° F. and 3° F., but in the South Island it was considerably less.

Sunshine was rather above the average, so that good harvesting weather was experienced.

Pressure Systems.—At the beginning of the month anticyclonic conditions prevailed, and the weather was generally fine until the 10th. Between the 10th and the 12th a moderate depression passed, and rain was almost general, though only light to moderate in amount.

The next depression passed between the 15th and 18th, and again there was widespread, though mainly light, rain. A slight cyclonic centre developed in this depression and crossed the South Island on the night of the 17th. Thunderstorms were experienced, Christchurch recording an unusually severe one.