

Government Meteorological Observations.

METEOROLOGICAL Observations at Kelburn, Wellington, for the Month of May, 1932. 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.		Anemometer.			
		At 9 a.m.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Direction.			Force.	Run in 24 Hours.				
		Dry.	Wet.	Humidity.											
1	29-771	52.8	51.9	94	53.9	50.7	50.3	72.2	SSE	6	338	119	0.0	op	
2	29-932	49.0	48.8	99	51.3	49.3	49.0	88.0	S	5	441	120	0.0	orq	
3	30-014	51.3	48.9	83	58.2	45.3	41.4	106.9	NE	1	258	..	9.2	bc	
4	30-167	52.2	50.2	86	56.3	45.7	37.1	106.8	NE	1	34	..	8.6	b	
5	30-363	53.1	49.9	79	56.8	47.0	41.2	106.9	Calm	..	92	..	9.4	b	
6	30-342	50.1	46.2	73	60.3	42.7	36.2	107.0	NE	2	52	..	9.2	b	
7	30-124	54.3	51.6	82	57.7	45.4	36.2	102.3	N	2	71	..	5.9	c	
8	29-668	57.5	52.8	72	63.1	51.4	48.9	109.0	NNW	4	371	..	6.9	c	
9	29-515	58.0	55.2	82	60.0	53.3	50.1	100.0	NW	6	295	..	6.0	o	
10	29-563	52.8	44.0	43	57.6	48.2	44.2	105.3	W	3	499	41	7.3	b	
11	29-661	50.3	50.1	99	59.5	47.3	45.0	105.0	NE	2	206	17	2.5	or	
12	30-001	52.1	52.0	99	56.8	49.4	46.9	63.3	SSE	5	175	135	0.0	od	
13	29-702	54.8	54.7	99	58.9	51.0	52.9	105.1	Calm	..	239	81	0.3	or	
14	29-873	48.0	44.8	76	51.1	45.7	44.4	101.3	SSE	6	263	22	4.1	oip	
15	30-143	45.6	42.5	76	47.8	42.4	40.0	92.3	S	5	270	14	1.8	b	
16	30-342	45.1	43.3	86	52.0	39.0	35.1	97.7	Calm	..	134	8	0.9	om	
17	30-394	49.6	47.5	85	53.4	45.1	37.3	98.1	Calm	..	107	..	4.2	b	
18	30-121	49.3	47.2	84	56.4	42.0	37.2	101.6	N	3	30	4	8.2	bc	
19	30-208	51.3	47.7	75	57.2	45.8	39.0	102.5	NE	2	118	..	8.8	b	
20	30-182	50.2	48.8	90	56.3	44.4	40.2	101.0	NNE	1	125	..	7.2	c	
21	30-007	56.3	52.0	73	61.3	47.8	43.8	104.0	NNW	3	240	..	8.8	b	
22	29-913	54.8	51.7	79	56.2	50.8	47.0	84.8	NNW	5	192	173	0.1	o	
23	29-741	45.0	44.3	94	49.9	44.0	43.8	73.0	S	6	297	24	0.0	orq	
24	29-573	49.9	47.5	83	56.3	39.8	35.0	100.1	NNE	3	222	..	8.5	b	
25	29-417	45.2	40.7	65	49.7	41.9	36.1	96.1	W	2	254	..	2.8	c	
26	30-092	44.1	37.0	44	52.8	38.0	33.7	98.3	W	1	344	..	7.7	b	
27	30-437	43.3	41.0	81	54.1	36.1	27.6	98.0	Calm	..	89	..	8.0	b	
28	30-301	50.0	47.7	84	56.3	41.2	37.0	100.0	N	3	122	3	8.2	bc	
29	30-286	47.5	46.5	92	48.0	44.8	38.6	74.9	SSE	3	141	18	0.4	o	
30	30-471	46.8	41.9	63	49.8	43.0	38.9	96.0	S	3	181	..	8.2	b	
31	30-342	47.0	44.7	83	51.1	39.4	33.4	77.0	N	3	83	..	1.0	o	
Means, &c.	30-021	50.2	47.5	81	55.2	45.1	40.9	96.0	..	2.8	203	779	154.2	..	

Mean earth temperature at 1 ft., 52.0°; and at 3 ft., 55.1°. Number of rain days, 14.

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.
1	9	5	6½	6	..	2	6	..	3	2½
..

NOTE.—A cold and wet autumn month, with precipitation 96 per cent. above the mean of previous years. Total bright sunshine, 154.2 hours, 54 per cent. of the possible, and four sunless days. Frost was recorded on the grass on the morning of the 27th. Hail fell on the 15th, lightning was seen on the 11th and 26th, and fog was in evidence on the 12th and 13th. Mean dew-point at 9 hrs., 44.5°; and mean vapour pressure, 0.293 in.

SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 1932.

General.—May was, for the Dominion as a whole, a dry and cool month. The first few days, however, were mild, and, since most districts had experienced good rains, there was fair growth of grass. Strong winds occurred on a few days only, and sunshine was plentiful. The effects of the cold spells of the middle and latter end of the month, which were severe for the time of year, were, therefore, considerably mitigated. Reports indicate that in most localities feed is relatively plentiful for the time of the year, and that stock are in good condition. From many districts the reports, indeed, are very favourable. The only parts whence adverse reports come are the central portion of the North Island and parts of Canterbury, where supplies of feed for the winter are somewhat scarce.

Rainfall.—Rainfall over much the greater part of the country was 25 per cent. or more below the average. The northern portion of the Auckland Peninsula, scattered parts of the districts between Hawke's Bay and the Bay of Plenty, an area extending from both sides of Cook Strait through eastern Nelson and Marlborough to North Canterbury, and Stewart Island, however, had more than the average.

Temperatures.—Except in the western portions of the South Island, temperatures were everywhere below normal, though the departures were not large. It is most probable that the low temperatures were due to the presence in the atmosphere of volcanic ash transported from the Chilean volcanoes which erupted on the 10th April. Brilliant sunsets are reported from all parts of the Dominion. In the South Island frosts were numerous from the 10th onward, many of them being severe. The hardest occurred on the 25th, and on this occasion practically the whole of the country suffered. At the end of the month temperatures were again low.

Sunshine was considerably above the average at most stations.

Winds.—There was a preponderance of southerly wind and, as is usual in such cases, the average velocity was light. A northerly gale blew in Taranaki and Wellington and the northern part of the South Island on the night of the 9th. On the 25th most places experienced a south-westerly gale.

Pressure Systems.—At the beginning of the month a depression had just crossed the northern portion of the North Island, and on the 1st and 2nd some heavy rains fell in eastern districts between Cook Strait and East Cape before the depression moved away. Fine weather was then the rule until the 9th. On that day a deep westerly depression was passing to the south of New Zealand, and on the next a cyclone centre developed in the northern portion of it. This centre was located to the west of the South Island, and it was not until the 14th that it passed finally away. Heavy rains fell over most of the South Island and in Taranaki on the 10th, accompanied in some cases by severe thunderstorms. In South Canterbury the total fall over two days over a considerable area exceeded 4 inches, and there were high floods, the Pareora Bridge again being threatened. A heavy snowfall occurred in the Mackenzie Country, a fall of 18 in. being recorded at Fairlie and the