

Heavy rain again fell over the South Island in connection with a depression which moved on to the Dominion during the 20th and 21st. Though vigorous at first this depression lost energy when a cyclone moved down from the north and, keeping to the eastward, passed near Chatham Islands.

On the 25th a deep cyclone, which had first appeared off the Queensland coast on the 18th, passed Norfolk Island on the westward side and on the 26th was centred near Cape Maria van Diemen. Moving in a south-easterly direction it was centred off East Cape on the morning of the 27th and soon moved away. It was responsible for very severe gales and remarkably high tides from Auckland northwards, and much damage was done. Heavy rain was recorded over most of the North Island, but the amounts, nevertheless, were surprisingly small for so deep and slow-moving a cyclone.

From the 28th until the end of the month a westerly depression followed by a series of secondaries caused a second series of westerly or south-westerly gales which were severe in many places. On the 29th a tornado of unusual size for New Zealand did considerable damage at Greymouth. There were heavy rains in western districts of the South Island.

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CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE.

SUMMARY OF THE RECORDS OF TEMPERATURE, RAINFALL, AND SUNSHINE FOR MARCH, 1936.

Station.	Height of Station above M.S.L.	Air Temperatures in Degrees (Fahrenheit).								Rainfall in Inches.				Bright Sunshine (Hours).	
		Means of		Mean of A and B.	Difference from Normal.	Absolute Maximum and Minimum.				Total Fall.	No. of Wet Days.	Difference from Normal.	Most in a Day.		
		A Max.	B Min.			Maximum.	Date.	Minimum.	Date.				Amount.		Date.
	Ft.	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F		°F		In.		In.	In.		
Te Pahi, Te Hapua ..	200	68.8	55.4	62.1	(-1.0)	73.2	19, 20	44.0	17	2.76	10	..	1.23	26	185.6
Waipoua State Forest ..	225	68.4	55.3	61.8	(±0.0)	75.0	20	46.0	23	6.38	19	..	2.70	25	115.3
Riverhead ..	105	68.0	53.2	60.6	(-0.2)	76.1	1	42.0	18	3.88	15	..	1.12	25	..
Auckland ..	160	69.0	57.8	63.4	-1.2	75.8	1	49.0	9	2.48	12	-0.79	0.66	26	196.8
Waihi ..	404	67.3	52.7	60.0	-1.8	76.3	2	41.0	16	8.02	14	+0.52	2.77	26	164.9
Te Aroha ..	46	71.1	53.5	62.3	-1.1	79.0	7	42.2	17	5.73	13	+1.59	1.91	26	..
Morrinsville ..	87	70.6	49.3	60.0	..	77.2	20	37.3	18	2.75	12	..	0.53	26	..
Tauranga ..	100	69.7	51.9	60.8	-1.3	79.5	7	42.0	17	6.17	14	+2.25	3.24	26	212.7
Ruakura Farm, Hamilton	131	70.3	50.5	60.4	-1.6	77.6	14	35.8	17	3.58	12	+0.33	0.95	26	..
Cambridge ..	230	69.7	50.4	60.0	(-2.4)	77.4	7	38.0	18	3.18	11	..	0.59	1	199.9
Rotorua ..	925	66.5	49.7	58.1	-2.5	79.0	7	38.6	16	4.03	12	+0.55	1.22	26	159.3
Whakarewarewa ..	1,000	68.0	48.5	58.2	(-1.9)	76.8	23	37.0	16	3.81	11	-0.06	1.10	26	..
Onepoto, Lake Waikaremoana	2,110	60.1	48.5	54.3	..	69.0	2, 12	41.3	25	7.11	16	..	1.92	26	..
New Plymouth ..	60	66.9	53.0	60.0	-1.1	75.0	1	40.3	16	2.06	13	-1.62	0.92	2	194.7
Chateau Tongariro ..	3,670	54.1	..	..	..	68.0	7	..	..	6.03	18	..	1.71	2	..
Karioi ..	2,125	61.7	41.2	51.4	(-2.7)	72.1	22	28.4	16	2.75	14	..	0.63	2	..
Napier ..	5	68.0	52.3	60.2	-1.9	77.5	20	39.5	16	6.15	14	+3.49	2.13	8	175.4
Hastings ..	45	69.8	48.9	59.4	(-1.1)	79.0	20	35.4	16	5.89	14	..	2.45	8,	..
														26	
Taihape ..	2,157	60.1	46.4	53.2	-3.2	68.8	22	37.0	16	2.67	15	+0.07	0.87	8	..
Tangimoana ..	8	65.3	50.2	57.8	-2.4	72.5	6	37.0	6, 25	2.85	8	+0.56	1.40	2	..
Palmerston North ..	100	67.0	51.3	59.2	-1.3	76.0	22	38.0	16	2.77	11	+0.25	1.20	2	..
Massey College, P.N. ..	110	64.9	51.0	58.0	(-2.0)	74.0	22	37.0	16	2.78	12	(-0.09)	1.35	2	147.9
Pahiatua ..	384	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kapiti Island ..	44	63.3	51.0	57.2	-3.2	73.0	7	44.0	28	4.83	9	+2.75	2.49	1	..
Masterton ..	387	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington ..	415	61.9	50.1	56.0	-3.7	70.6	12	42.6	31	4.64	13	(+1.44)	1.38	2	194.6
Nelson ..	24	67.0	50.0	58.5	-1.5	75.0	23	38.1	30	1.45	6	-1.47	0.60	2	235.0
Appleby, Nelson ..	57	66.4	49.4	57.9	(-1.7)	74.7	23	40.3	4	1.06	6	..	0.69	2	..
Blenheim ..	30	67.0	46.8	56.9	(-4.1)	76.5	22	34.0	9	1.33	9	(-0.44)	0.47	2	226.0
Golden Downs ..	900	64.6	43.9	54.2	(-2.1)	72.7	1	34.3	4	2.81	6	..	1.10	2	..
Waihopai ..	860	64.7	45.6	55.2	(-4.4)	76.2	22	35.3	31	2.22	11	..	0.83	2	..
Hanmer Springs ..	1,225	63.0	41.1	52.0	-4.5	76.3	22	27.6	25	4.94	15	+1.68	2.02	9	209.4
Balmoral ..	743	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hokitika ..	12	62.9	47.1	55.0	-2.8	70.0	1	38.0	31	9.53	15	+0.02	3.09	2	..
Lake Coleridge ..	1,220	63.3	43.2	53.2	-3.6	79.0	22	32.0	31	4.50	12	+2.76	1.36	8	..
Rudstone, Methven ..	1,217	61.3	42.7	52.0	(-4.6)	75.0	7	33.0	9, 24	8.04	12	+5.32	2.14	2	..
Christchurch ..	22	61.4	47.1	54.2	-3.7	72.0	11	35.1	25	6.07	13	+4.23	2.27	9	192.9
Lincoln ..	36	63.5	46.3	54.9	-3.7	72.5	11	34.0	25	7.04	11	+4.95	2.60	2	191.3
Hermitage, Mount Cook	2,510	64.5	44.4	54.4	(+1.3)	78.0	1, 28	26.0	30	39.93	17	+25.57	7.40	2	121.2
Ashburton ..	323	62.7	45.0	53.8	(-3.3)	76.0	20	32.6	25	7.73	11	+6.01	2.97	8	199.3
Lake Tekapo ..	2,350	59.9	37.2	48.6	(-5.6)	72.2	22	29.1	15	4.28	7	..	1.66	3	247.5
Fairlie ..	1,000	63.4	39.9	51.6	(-3.6)	77.0	7	29.5	25	5.08	9	..	1.70	2	211.3
Timaru ..	56	64.6	44.4	54.5	-2.8	77.4	14	35.0	15	4.38	8	+2.22	1.35	2, 8	215.9
Waimate ..	200	63.5	42.8	53.2	-3.2	76.4	14	36.0	27	3.71	10	+1.63	1.45	8	198.3
* Milford Sound ..	23	60.1	45.9	53.0	..	68.5	1	37.0	15	15.65	17	..	3.48	28	..
Queenstown ..	1,110	61.9	42.4	52.2	(-3.6)	71.4	20	34.8	15	3.24	12	+0.62	0.78	28	206.0
Ophi ..	1,000	63.5	38.3	50.9	-4.8	77.4	22	29.7	26	2.36	9	+1.06	0.64	2	..
Waipiata ..	1,550	61.3	38.9	50.1	-4.4	78.6	22	32.0	13	3.11	11	..	1.18	8	211.5
Alexandra ..	520	64.6	40.7	52.6	(-4.4)	79.5	22	31.5	25	1.41	8	(+0.40)	0.41	2	225.0
Manorburn Dam ..	2,448	55.4	34.8	45.1	(-4.9)	69.8	22	28.0	25	2.09	11	+0.20	0.45	7	..
Dunedin ..	240	61.2	43.5	52.4	-3.6	74.8	20	34.0	22	6.12	15	+3.22	2.32	8	181.4
Gore ..	245	63.1	40.2	51.6	-3.3	77.0	20	35.0	27	5.06	21	+1.97	0.90	27	157.1
Invercargill ..	12	60.1	43.9	52.0	-2.7	75.0	7	34.0	26	5.20	21	+1.31	1.10	27	148.4

LATE RETURNS.

† Te Pahi, Te Hapua, February, 1936	200	72.2	54.1	63.2	-1.7	79.0	2	44.2	10	9.68	10	..	5.65	2	233.1
Milford Sound, January, 1936	23	64.4	49.7	58.0	..	77.6	1	43.7	28	27.75	18	..	8.78	29	..

* Milford Sound screen minimum temperatures for 23 days only.

† Te Pahi, Te Hapua, February means for 26 days only.

NOTE.—At stations where departures from normal are in parentheses the record has been maintained for less than ten years in the case of temperatures and for less than twenty years in the case of rainfall, and the normals are partly interpolated.