

The Cold May

Boston Advertiser.—The mean temperature for the month of May was 49.8 deg., which is 4.7 deg. lower than the lowest mean for the month of May recorded since the signal station was established, in 1870. Last year the mean was 54.9 deg. The total rainfall for the month was 6.05 inches, the greatest amount recorded for May since 1873, when the total was 5.16. Rain fell last month on fourteen days.

June Flakes.

Very heavy rains in the North-West. The outlook for the Illinois corn crop not encouraging.

June frosts reported in the vicinity of Millersburg, Ohio, on the 12th. Also light frost same date in Lower St. Lawrence Valley.

The Ohio corn crop reported to be in a sad shape. This has been the coldest corn-planting in twenty years.

The army worm has appeared in alarming numbers in the wheat in Scioto County, Ohio. Fields of grain are being laid waste.

The harvest prospects in most parts of Ireland and France are good.

Recent warm and favorable weather has improved the outlook for the Illinois corn crop.

The June crop report of the Department of Agriculture shows a deficiency of area in cotton, with an improvement, however, more recently. Wheat crop fine.

The rain is working overtime. The smile of the sun between the drops makes the farmer laugh clear to his pocket-book.—*Troy Times.* The Canadian farmer, who seldom has a pocket-book, laughs down to his jack knife.—*Ed. Bull.*

It is said that the winter of 1882 was singularly fatal to grape vines in the Hudson River Valley. Old, hardy vines of 15 years' growth have suffered as much as young vines of but one or two years' growth.

Captain Hansen, of the Hamburg steamer *Frisia*, says that June 5, on the way to New York, he saw an iceberg, and—"its height above water was fully two hundred feet, and as that portion always represents but a seventh part of the entire mass, it must have been fourteen hundred feet high. On the rear portion of the iceberg a number of Northern birds resembling elder ducks were visible. A black object also appeared for a moment between the crevices of the ice, which one of the men who saw it through a telescope declared to be a sea-horse. We saw two more icebergs of an average height of one hundred feet, before the day was over. This was latitude 42.06, longitude 49.04.

The salmon in the rivers and streams throughout England are dying in large numbers. The fish are attacked by a sort of leprosy. In three or four days it extends over the body of the largest salmon, and the fish is done for. The disease has features in common with a form of fungi, but whether the fungus develops the disease or the disease the fungus, is not satisfactorily settled. All the same it is fatal to the fish, and threatens salmon fishing in England with ultimate extinction.

The *Silkean Gazette* reports a hail-storm in villages of that Province that was of amazing destructiveness. Stones of the size of hens' eggs were showered throughout a whole night upon the unfortunate hamlets, and they fell with such force that they crashed through roofs, killed horses and cattle, destroyed barns and dwellings, and broke down trees. At the same time a brook that ran near by rose until it became a rushing torrent and burst over the adjoining lands. In the morning it was found that eleven persons had lost their lives, their bodies being found bruised and disfigured beyond recognition; horses and cattle were killed, and many buildings destroyed, or so badly injured that they had to be torn down.

The Spring in England.

Englishmen may be excused just now for talking about the weather. A uniformly mild winter, followed by an early spring in which everything has made favorable progress, is a combination with which we have of late years been strangely unfamiliar. The forwardness of the vegetation in all parts of England has lent a charm this year to the Easter holidays which they generally lack even when Easter falls a fortnight later. The trees and hedges are as green as they often are by the third week in May. The plane trees in London and the thorns in the different parks are almost in full leaf, whereas in other years we have often in the middle of April been witnessing the first buds. Nearly as much might have been said with truth even a week ago. The rain was very badly wanted; and the effect of the genial showers which have visited us within the last few days was visible in a moment. The richness of the verdure in and about London must be seen to be believed. Instead of having January in the lap of May, it is not a very great exaggeration to say that we have June in the lap of April; and we only hope that so precocious a maturity may not be the forerunner of an early decline when summer begins to verge on autumn, and when all are looking forward to a harvest of unusual abundance. The farmers hitherto have been obliged for once in their lives to admit that if the weather had been made for them it could hardly have been more favorable. Still, if such thoughts may be allowed to intrude on us at so agreeable a moment, we must remember that, of the two, even a wet, cold spring is less mischievous than a wet, cold autumn; and that a good harvest time does far more to compensate for a bad seed time than the best seed time can do for even a moderately bad harvest time. Let us, however, hope for the best. It seems to be admitted on all hands that if the weather "holds," and the year fulfils its promise, the British farmer will once more be an illustration of the felicity imputed to agriculture in all ages of the world.—*London Standard, April 22.*

Weather Briefs.

—Great storms through Massachusetts 29th May.

—General storms on Lakes and in North Carolina 3rd and 4th June.

—First summer-like weather in St. Lawrence River Valley first week in June.

—At San Antonio, Texas, on the last day of May, a remarkable rain fall of 2.32 inches occurred within eight hours.

MAY IN CINCINNATI, O.

The average temperature of the past month in Cincinnati was 61°. The warmest day was the 8th, when the maximum temperature was 83° and the average for the day 74.1°. The coolest day was the 2nd, average temperature 50.3°. The lowest temperature was on the morning of the 3rd, 41°. There were eleven days upon which the temperature fell below 50°, and frosts occurred at different times during the month. An uninterrupted spell of fine weather prevailed from the 15th to the 20th, covering the period of the May Festival. During the month there were nineteen days upon which rain fell, and the total rainfall was about eight and a half inches. The normal yearly allowance of rain for Cincinnati is only about forty inches.

May, upon the whole, has been chilly, wet and uncertain.

The general average temperature for June, at Cincinnati, is about 75°. It is predicted that the present month also will generally fall below its average.

June Drift.

GREAT RAIN-FALL TORONTO, ONT.

The amount of rain-fall, as registered at the Observatory during June 3rd, 4th and 5th was 1.55 inches. Of this 1.37 inches fell on the 3rd. It is only about once in every three years that the rain fall equals that of Saturday. In June, 1870, 2.36 inches fell during one day, being the largest on record for a number of years. Some may remember the heavy rain-storms of three or four years ago, when cellars were flooded, and the question was raised as to whether the city was liable for the damage through not having sufficient sewer capacity to carry off the water fast enough. The City Engineer at that time stated that the sewers were constructed to carry off one inch in twenty-four hours, and that this was quite sufficient. Either the Engineer or the clerk of the weather must have made a mistake, for the mains are not large enough to carry off such a large quantity of water. The velocity of the wind between seven and eight o'clock, when it was highest, was 28.5 miles per hour, or about the speed of an ordinary railway train.

CHICAGO, June 3.—During the last twenty-four hours it has rained almost incessantly throughout a large part of the western corn belt, causing great anxiety regarding the corn crop. Despatches received this morning report the ground saturated and a large area of low land flooded, and that further planting must be deferred some days. Much of the corn up is also being smothered by weeds. After making all due allowances for the exaggerations of some of the despatches, the situation is certainly critical in the extreme. Advices regarding wheat are less discouraging, but it is conceded that further rains would greatly lessen the chances of a good crop.

—Sharp frost along the Valley of the St. Charles River, Quebec, on 2nd June.

RAIN-FALL, SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

June 3rd.—In the 24 hours ending 6 a.m. to-day, 3.79 inches of rain fell. Since last May to date a fraction over 14 inches have fallen.

Heavy Rain-Falls at Montreal.

1858 was a year of unusual rain falls in the Upper St. Lawrence River Valley, and therefore is worthy of being placed on record for future comparisons. Rain fell during this year on no fewer than 111 days, on the Island of Montreal. It was raining 521 hours 33 minutes, and was accompanied by thunder and lightning on 20 days. According to the observations taken at the Observatory of St. Martin, Isle Jesus (just behind Montreal), this amount of rain exceeds by upwards of 7 inches the usual average compared with a series of years, and was owing to the excessive rains of June and July.

In June of this year (1858), a heavy storm of rain occurred on the 10th day, which lasted 28 hours and 43 minutes—amounting to 6.175 inches. There fell in one hour (from 5 to 6 p.m.) 0.933 inches.

The river surrounding Isle Jesus rose eight inches in height.

A second heavy storm of rain set in on the 12th July at 3 a.m., and lasted until 12.40 p.m. of the 13th day, and indicated 6.374 inches; the wind which accompanied this storm was from the N. E. by E. The river in the neighbourhood of St. Martin (site of Observatory) rose nearly two feet in perpendicular height. The amount of rain which fell during this month was 12.214 inches, and it is the most rainy July on the record. In August, the amount of rain which fell, as might have been expected, was less than the usual mean quantity for that month.