

FORECASTS FOR MAY, 1899.

The forecasts issued by this office at 11 p.m. each night are posted up at every telegraph station in Canada, and are for the 24 hours beginning at 8 a.m. the following day.

The number of predictions issued during the month was 877. These were divided as follows:—

DISTRICT.	No. ISSUED.	VERIFIED.			
		No. Fully.	No. Partly.	No. Not.	Percentage.
MANITOBA.....	89	70	13	6	86.0
LAKE SUPERIOR.....	93	58	30	5	78.5
LOWER LAKE REGION.....	111	80	21	10	81.5
GEORGIAN BAY.....	111	91	11	9	86.9
OTTAWA VALLEY.....	94	84	3	7	91.0
UPPER ST. LAWRENCE.....	93	79	10	4	90.3
LOWER ST. LAWRENCE.....	89	73	8	8	86.5
GULF.....	95	72	13	10	82.7
MARITIME PROVINCES.....	102	80	19	3	87.7
TOTAL.....	877	687	128	62	85.6

In order to obtain the percentage of verification of the predictions, the number partly verified is divided by two and added to the number fully verified, and the result divided by the total number issued.

In ascertaining to what extent the predictions have been verified, the reports from the agents at all observing stations, as well as the telegraphic reports, are used.

The forecasts for May were issued by the Forecast Official, B. C. Webber.

HINTS TO OBSERVERS.

(F. F. PAYNE.)

To those voluntary observers in Canada who extend their observations beyond the reading of their instruments and desire to make their records of auroras, thunder-storms, &c., as complete as possible we would suggest that in addition to noting the class to which the aurora belongs, as set forth in the book of "Instructions to Observers," a full description with the date and time of beginning and ending would add much to the value of the observation. If possible the altitude and azimuth of the arch should always be given, or its position may be explained by reference to some well known fixed stars. The extent and position of streamers, presence of corona, prismatic colours, waves, &c., should be noted and it would be well to mention whether changes are rapid or slow.

To most volunteer observers a full description of each thunder-storm may perhaps be found too tedious, therefore the following observations are suggested, they being of most importance.—Time when first and last thunder is heard, position of thunder cloud when first seen and when last seen, time of beginning and ending of rain or hail, direction and maximum force of the wind. If several storms occur on the same day they are considered as separate when a period or region of clear sky occurs between each.

Tornadoes do not often occur in Canada nor are they usually so destructive as those experienced in other latitudes; they are reported occasionally, however, and it is important that they should be properly described. The date and time of occurrence having been given, the following notes should be added:—Appearance of the tornado, direction in which it moved; direction of whirl, length and width of track, amount of rain, amount of destruction, position of trees and other objects thrown down, &c.

If a meteor is recorded, a full description should also be given, or if not seen by the observer, a trustworthy neighbour might be able to give the information desired. If possible its angular altitude and azimuth when first and last seen should be noted, together with remarks stating whether a report or vibration was noticeable, whether the white vapoury cloud left appeared to shift its position, and how long this cloud could be seen; also the time in seconds that elapsed before the sound was heard after the meteor passed.

Some further suggestions might be added, but we may give these in a later issue.