

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE, DOMINION OF CANADA.

Monthly Weather Review.

VOL. XXIII

DECEMBER, 1899.

No. 12

INTRODUCTION.

In compiling the present Review the principal data made use of are the telegraph reports of observations received at this office for the purpose of weather forecasting, and reports by mail from voluntary observers and storm signal agents. For the material used in tracing the paths of areas of high and low pressure in the United States, we are indebted to the Chief of the Weather Bureau, Washington, D.C.

REMARKS UPON THE WEATHER.

The weather of December, though departing in the aggregate little from the normal, excepting in the temperature, which was above the average, showed many local departures. The snowfall in most districts was light and excepting in portions of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, there was little upon the ground on the last day of the month. In many districts rivers and lakes were frozen over unusually late. Several heavy gales were reported, these occurring more especially in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces and causing some loss of life.

In British Columbia the weather was exceptionally mild, the temperature being above average; and although there was much cloud and the falls of rain or snow were unusually frequent, the precipitation altogether was about average. The maximum temperatures occurred at most places between the 22nd and 25th, and were about 54° ; and the minimum about the 17th, 27° at French Creek to -24° at Barkerville being recorded. On the 31st there was no snow upon the ground, and on Vancouver Island wild roses were in bloom in the early part of the month.

The weather in the North-west Territories was almost normal, and although there were some local departures they were generally unimportant. At Medicine Hat the temperature was 3.6° above average, and at Chaplin it was 3.0° above, these being the chief exceptions. The maximum temperatures, which were generally between 40° and 55° , occurred at most stations about the 22nd, and the minimum temperatures, which were generally between -12° at Chaplin and -37° at Edmonton, were recorded generally on the 16th and 17th. Little snow fell until the last week, and on the 31st the ground was only lightly covered. Chinook winds occurred rather frequently, and the accompanying high temperatures soon melted the snow. In most districts there was much cloud.

In Manitoba the weather was for the most part fine, mild and dry, the temperature being above average, the precipitation below, and the amount of cloud unusually small. At Stony Mountain the temperature was 6.4° above the average, and at Winnipeg it was 5.6° above. The maximum temperatures, which were generally between 40° and 50° , occurred about the 22nd at most places, and the minimum temperatures, ranging between -17.0° at Portage la Prairie and -24.7° at Brandon, about the 30th. During the first three weeks the precipitation was mostly rain, after which some snow fell, but there was little on the ground on the 31st. Most rivers were frozen over early in the month.

In most districts in Ontario the temperature and precipitation were above average, but there were local exceptions, and at several stations in the south-western portion these conditions were reversed. The greatest departures in the temperature and precipitation above average occurred in eastern and northern Ontario. The maximum temperatures, which at most stations were between 50° and 56° , were recorded generally about the 11th and 12th, and the minimum, which varied between 2.0° above at Pelee Island and -42.5° at White River, north of Lake Superior, occurred on or about the 30th. Although snow fell upon several occasions during the month in southern districts, the ground was bare at most places on the 31st, but in northern and eastern Ontario there was good sleighing by that date. A heavy gale passed over Lake Erie on the 4th, causing loss of life, and another equally severe passed over the province on the 10th. At several stations in the southern portion some garden and wild flowers were still in bloom early in the month.

In the province of Quebec the weather was exceptionally mild, the temperature being as much as 7.1° above average at Chicoutimi, and the precipitation, which was mostly snow, was also above average in most districts. The highest temperatures, which were generally between 50° and 60° , occurred about the 12th, and the lowest, which ranged between -4.5° and -19.0° , were recorded generally about the 31st.