

heavy rain fell about Cook Strait, while the barometric pressure decreased slightly in adjacent parts. A cold snap followed, and snow was experienced on some of the higher lands. A storm of a squally character occurred in the southernmost districts on the night of the 19th, for which the barometer fell and rose again very rapidly. Between the 26th and 31st there was a steady fall and rise of the barometer over the whole of the Dominion, with gloomy and changeable weather, heavy rain and strong winds in parts.

High and persistent westerly winds prevailed in Southland during the greater part of the month.

#### DISTRICT NOTES.

*Auckland.*—A fine dry January, the rainfall consisting of showers only, falling on eight days, the total amount considerably under the average of the previous forty-four years. Mean temperature slightly under the average.—(T. F. Cheeseman.)

*Waihi.*—January has been a very dry, fine month. The temperatures, while being lower than those of last January, were about the average. The velocity of the wind is below the average for January. On two days the sun was obscured (presumably from bush fires)—viz., on the 19th and 20th—and this circumstance has tended to lower an otherwise very high average of sunshine.—(H. B. Devereux.)

*Kohukohu.*—After a dry month the creeks were flooded. The district had begun to fail, and water for household purposes was becoming scarce, when the rain on the 28th freshened the pastures and temporarily gave a sufficient supply of water.—(A. C. Yarborough.)

*Waiuku, Auckland.*—Grass drying up very much. Milk-supply falling fast. Most satisfactory harvesting month.—(J. E. Makgill.)

*Kawhia.*—A very dry and warm month; smallest rainfall for some years. Wind very often calm in the morning, but about 10 to 10.30 a strong sea-breeze comes up, and usually lasts till sundown.—(J. K. Newton.)

*Rotorua.*—An exceedingly dry month in Rotorua. Rain badly wanted.—(J. F. Robieson.)

*Kaitieke (Raurimu).*—The month of January has been very dry up to within a few days of the end; then there was a welcome downpour. Fair dews started about the middle of the month, somewhat counteracting the want of rain.—(H. C. Wedde.)

*New Plymouth.*—A fine summer month, with little rain. A heavy hail-storm, with thunder and lightning, on the night of the 27th. The south-east winds during the month have been very cold.—(W. N. Fletcher.)

*Hivi, Taihape.*—A warm month, with a good deal of smoke about from bush fires. Nearly all the rain (2.125 in.) fell in heavy showers, mostly from thunderstorms which usually fell only over small areas, with the result that in some parts of the district the grass has dried off a good deal, while in other parts it is still green and plentiful.—(A. R. Fannin.)

*Waituna West (Feilding).*—January has been hot and dry, the rainfall being the lowest since February, 1909. Feed and water are getting very