

## THE WEATHER.

### DISTRICT NOTES DURING MARCH.

D. C. BATES.

District.

*Chiefly from Telegraphic Reports.*

1. The weather was generally fine and warm, with bright sunshine in excess of the average and rainfall below, especially in the northernmost portion, where the percentage below ranged from 60 to 80 per cent. In the southern half the total fall was about 20 per cent. less than the average.
- 2, 4, 9. The departure from the normal rainfall varied greatly in these districts—viz., from slightly below to 50 per cent. in excess; but generally the difference was a positive one. Fair weather predominated, but cloudy and misty conditions were frequent. Heavy rain fell on the 12th, and in parts on the 28th and 29th, but usually precipitation was in the nature of showers.
- 3, 5, 6. About 28 per cent. below the usual March rainfall. Moderate and variable breezes prevailed, with fine weather generally.
- 7, 8. Warm and dry weather was experienced, the rainfall being less than the average by from 60 to as much as 100 per cent.
10. In the northern half of this district precipitation exceeded the average slightly, but in the south about 20 per cent. less than the average amount was recorded. During the first week fine and clear weather prevailed, but from then to the end of the month dull conditions were much in evidence, and temperatures were appreciably lower towards the close of the month. On the 28th and 29th high northerly winds were experienced.
- 11, 12. About the average and slightly less than the average rain fell in these districts. No very heavy falls occurred, but showers were frequent. Very squally conditions were experienced on the 17th and 28th, with northerly winds, but the directions were very variable during the month and much dull and misty weather prevailed.
13. In the beginning and end of the month much rain fell, and the total fall was usually double the average. With the exception of the 16th and 17th, fair weather prevailed between the 9th and 20th, but unsettled and wet conditions ruled during the remainder of the month. Some dense fog occurred on the 12th and 13th.
14. With the exception of a few unsettled and wet days in the middle and at the end of the month weather-conditions were very favourable. Forty-five per cent. below the average rainfall was recorded.
- 15, 16. Particularly heavy rain fell in all the high country, especially on the western slopes, where over double the average amount was recorded for the month. Following are some of the high-level stations with their total rainfall recorded during the four days from the 26th to the 29th: Otira, 17.17 in.; Bealey, 6.52 in.; Bealey Flat, 18.44 in.; Hermitage, 21.93 in. During this period many of the larger rivers became flooded.
17. Owing to the heavy rains between the 26th and 29th, the total for the month greatly exceeded the average, in some cases by over 100 per cent. The weather was very changeable; showers were frequent, especially on the higher levels. Some cold nights were experienced, and the first frosts on the 23rd.
- 18-22. In all these districts the rainfall was below the average, the difference ranging from about 20 to 80 per cent. Continuous, fine weather prevailed between the 1st and 10th, and other shorter periods of similar conditions were experienced during the month. Strong winds, however, were frequent.