

THE WEATHER FOR MAY.

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THE barometer was below the average during the greater part of the month, and the exceedingly low reading of 28·48 in. was recorded on the 19th at the Bluff, being only one-hundredth above the record for New Zealand. The readings from Adelie Land and Macquarie Island were not so low, and the whole disturbance bore the character of a vast cyclone in high latitudes. Anticyclonic conditions with fair weather ruled at the close of the month.

Strong southerly winds were prevalent with cold and boisterous weather, except in the Bay of Plenty and Nelson districts, which are somewhat sheltered from these winds.

The total rainfall during the month was not excessive, except in the southern portion of the North Island and parts of the east coast and southern districts of the South Island.

District.

Chiefly from Telegraphic Reports.

- 1, 2, 3. The month was cold and showery, with stormy conditions ruling during the first half, but no particularly heavy rainfalls were recorded, the total being about 35 per cent. below the average in districts Nos. 1 and 3, but only slightly under the average in No. 2.
4. Cold southerly winds predominated, attaining gale force on numerous occasions during the first three weeks. A severe thunderstorm was experienced at many places on the 10th, accompanied by a heavy fall of hail, the latter in some cases being reported as large as peas. Some stations also had extremely heavy rainfalls on the 19th and 20th. The aggregate, however, was usually about 30 per cent. lower than the mean May fall.
5. Rainfall was less than the average by from 40 to 60 per cent. Cloudy weather was frequent, with occasional showers, but conditions were not generally so unfavourable as in those districts more exposed to the southerly winds which prevailed during the month.
6. During the greater portion of the month cold and showery, and at times boisterous, weather prevailed. Snow fell frequently on the high land. The last week was more favourable, although cold with frosty nights. About 35 per cent. less than the average rain was recorded.
- 7, 8. Rainfall was considerably below the average in both these districts, being chiefly of a showery nature. Fair weather predominated, especially in the latter portion of the month. Some hard frosts were experienced during the last week.
- 9, 10. During the first half of the month weather-conditions were extremely boisterous, high winds and heavy rains being frequent. The heaviest rain generally occurred on the 1st, when some stations, especially in the extreme south of the North Island, recorded extraordinary falls. At Wellington on this day the total for the twenty-four hours was 5·70 in., but this was exceeded at Wainuiomata, where 9·93 in. were recorded in nineteen hours. At the latter station this was the amount actually measured, but the total should be more than this, the rain-gauge having become flooded afterwards.