

District.

- 11, 12, Cold and showery weather prevailed, with the exception of a few short periods of clear conditions. Snow fell on the higher levels on the 10th and 21st, and electrical disturbances occurred at many places on the 20th and 21st. Precipitation was everywhere below the average, the deficiency ranging between 20 and 50 per cent.
13. The weather was cold though usually fine, and frosts were almost of daily occurrence. Fifty per cent. below the normal rain was recorded.
14. The rainfall was below the average, the difference varying considerably. Several short periods of fair weather were experienced, but cold and showery conditions prevailed, with snow at times.
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- 16, 17. About the average rain fell, in some cases slightly above. Dull and cold weather predominated, and snow fell on the 10th at many places.
18. From the beginning to the 20th of the month very boisterous conditions were the rule, with cold and at times high southerly winds. On the 1st and 10th very heavy rain fell, causing an excess of the average at most stations in the total for the month. Snow fell on the hilly country on the 1st, 10th, and 11th. Frosts were frequent.
19. Cold and boisterous weather prevailed in the first half of the month, and much rain fell during this period. In the latter half more-favourable conditions were experienced, but temperatures were usually below the mean, and frosts were numerous. The rainfall was double the average in some cases.
20. About 30 per cent. above the average rainfall was recorded, most of it falling during the first eleven days. Fair to cloudy and cold weather prevailed for the remainder of the month, and some hard frosts were experienced.
- 21, 22. Rainfall slightly in excess of the average. Weather similar to district No. 20.
23. The beginning of the month was stormy, and unsettled conditions continued until about the 15th, after which conditions improved. Snow fell inland on the 1st. The aggregate rainfall was below the average by about 15 per cent.
- 24, 25. The month was characterized by very cold and wet weather throughout, no particularly heavy rainfalls occurring; but the number of wet days was excessive.

RETURNS FROM FRUITGROWING.

FROM 30 acres of orchard in the Croydon district, Victoria, 7,000 bushels were gathered; and, estimating at 3s. per bushel, which is conservative, this orchard would show a return of £1,050, or equivalent to £35 per acre. However, the fruit from the orchard realized much better prices, 10s. per bushel being obtained for plums of the Grand Duke variety in the Sydney markets. This is a splendid plum, will keep well in cool storage, and stands shipping. Gravenstein apples averaged 8s. 6d. per bushel; whilst those of the Jonathan variety, after being taken from the cool stores, sold at from 9s. to 10s. per bushel. This orchard is well cared for, and the trees receive about 3 lb. of sulphate of potash in the spring.

From 10 acres of well-cultivated orchard in the same State the grower took £1,150, and from the same trees the following year £750.

From 1 acre of gooseberry-bushes the grower harvested 6 tons of berries. He sold his crop to a jam-factory at the remunerative prices of £18 to £22 per ton. This profitable acre returned £120 to the grower.—*A. Bailey Mansfield.*