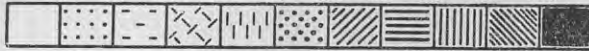


CANTERBURY'S CLIMATE

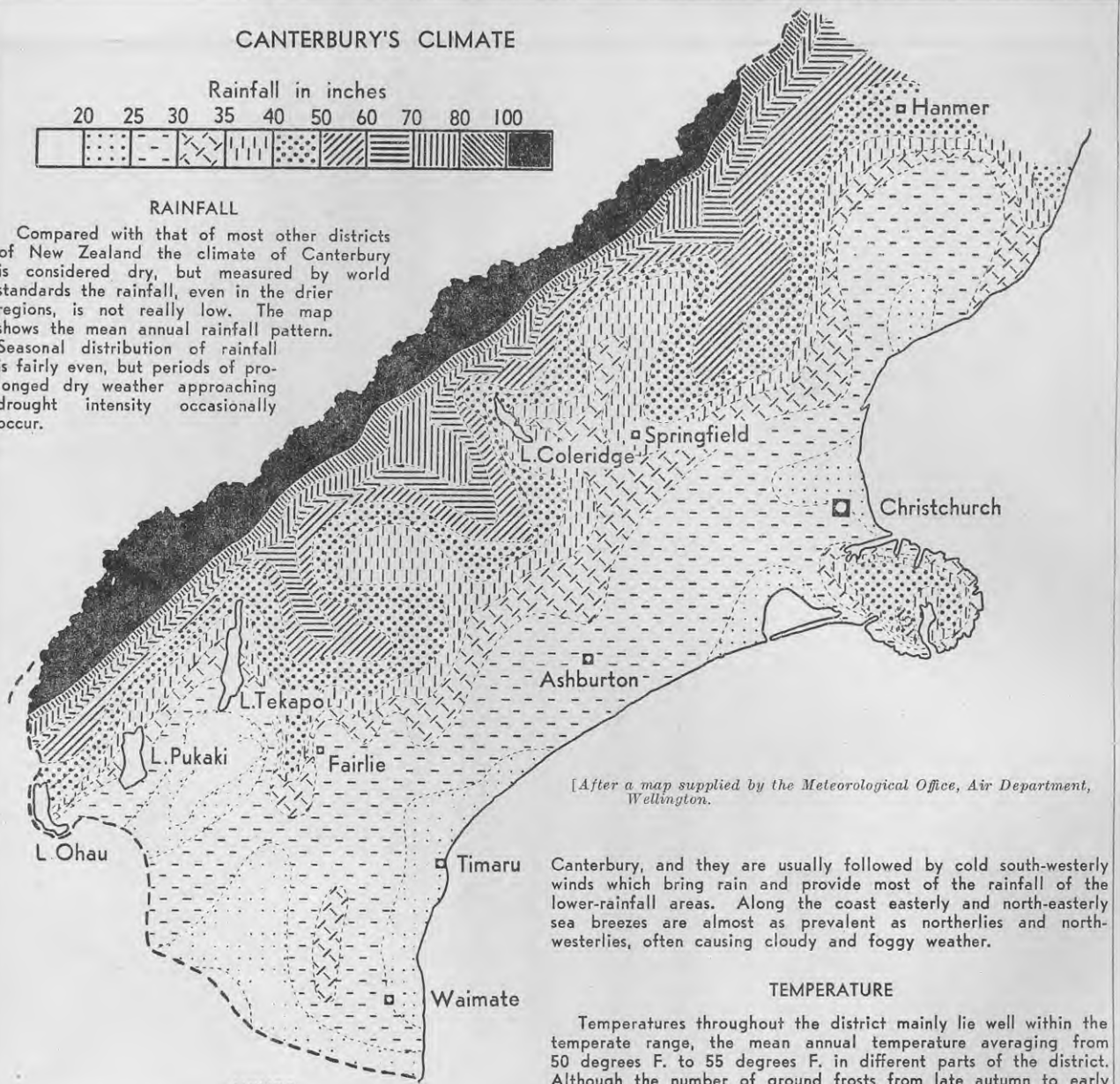
Rainfall in inches

20 25 30 35 40 50 60 70 80 100



RAINFALL

Compared with that of most other districts of New Zealand the climate of Canterbury is considered dry, but measured by world standards the rainfall, even in the drier regions, is not really low. The map shows the mean annual rainfall pattern. Seasonal distribution of rainfall is fairly even, but periods of prolonged dry weather approaching drought intensity occasionally occur.



[After a map supplied by the Meteorological Office, Air Department, Wellington.]

Canterbury, and they are usually followed by cold south-westerly winds which bring rain and provide most of the rainfall of the lower-rainfall areas. Along the coast easterly and north-easterly sea breezes are almost as prevalent as northerlies and north-westerlies, often causing cloudy and foggy weather.

WINDS

The moisture-laden winds coming from the Tasman Sea precipitate their moisture on the ranges and the west coast and sweep on through the foothills and across the Canterbury Plains as a hot, dry wind reaching high velocities at times. These winds from a westerly and north-westerly direction predominate in inland

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures throughout the district mainly lie well within the temperate range, the mean annual temperature averaging from 50 degrees F. to 55 degrees F. in different parts of the district. Although the number of ground frosts from late autumn to early spring is considerable, the day temperature seldom falls below 45 degrees F.; in summer the temperature seldom rises above 70 degrees F. and long periods of uncomfortable heat are infrequent. Except in the high country snowfalls occur only two or three times a year, and only at very infrequent intervals does snow lie on the ground for more than a day.

Vague Descriptions of Runs

The land was now quickly taken up, and a list issued in October, 1853, by James Campbell, Government Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Canterbury Province, showing the names of those entitled to occupy certain areas outside the Canterbury block included 49 runs covering approximately 1,261,000 acres. Some of the descriptions of the boundaries of the runs were certainly far from definite; for instance, a description of the boundaries of one run of 25,000

acres was as follows: "Northward the river Ashburton, north westward the mountain range, south westward the river Hinds, eastward a line drawn parallel to the sea at such a distance from the mountains as shall give in one block the prescribed extent only".

By 1855 the whole of the plains had been taken up and only the back hill country remained. It was not long before this was occupied. The fashion to take up hill country was set by C. G. Tripp and J. B. Acland, who at the end of 1855 applied for blocks of hill country of 57,500 acres each in the

Rangitata and Orari River gorges. By 1860 there was very little Canterbury high country remaining unoccupied, and extensive sheep farming was the picture, with a steadily increasing sheep population. The census for Canterbury for 1851 showed that there were 28,416 sheep in the area, and by 1858 the figure had reached 495,580 and 3 years later 877,400.

In the early stages of the squatter period many runholders had considerable numbers of cattle on their runs. When the executors of the late Captain Mitchell sold Mt. Grey Station