

NOVEMBER.

Temperature.—On the Central Plains of Western Canada the weather continued abnormally cold. The mean temperatures there ranged from 10° to 15° below normal. In southern British Columbia, in the interior valleys, the deficiency amounted to from 4° to 6°, in the Yukon to 8°, in Northwestern Ontario to from 2° to 8°. In the Lower Lakes and St. Lawrence Region temperatures were more seasonable and in most of Nova Scotia were a little higher than normal.

Precipitation.—In the Western Provinces the precipitation continued to be very heavy for this season of the year. In British Columbia except in the Kootenays and the Islands precipitation was also above normal. In Southern Ontario there was a deficiency and in the Maritime Provinces an excess.

Winds and Bright Sunshine.—The strong gale from the southwest of the 30th affected all Canada from Ontario eastward. Gales were of general occurrence on about 4 days in eastern Canada. The general direction of the wind remained southwesterly in Southern Ontario.

Except in Manitoba, and in high latitudes elsewhere, there was more than normal cloudiness.

DECEMBER.

Temperature.—Temperatures were below normal in all parts of Canada except in the lower Mackenzie Valley. In Western Canada they were 3° to 9° below normal, and in the Rainy River and Lake Superior districts 9° to 12° below normal; and in the Lower Lakes and St. Lawrence region 3° to 6° below normal.

Precipitation.—From Manitoba to the Atlantic Ocean there was a general deficiency while in the rest of Canada the precipitation was irregularly distributed, but with the majority of districts having a deficiency.

Winds and Bright Sunshine.—Strong winds or gales occurred on more than half the days of the month in Eastern Canada. The maximum force of the strong gale of the 10th and the 11th was not felt in Ontario but its velocity exceeded 50 miles per hour in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.

The amount of bright sunshine was much above the average in nearly all parts of Canada, except southern Ontario, and parts of Saskatchewan and Alberta, where the difference from normal was small.

NOTE ON TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION.

TEMPERATURE.—At the Stations of the Dominion Meteorological Service the highest and lowest temperature in each 24 hours, termed respectively the maximum and the minimum, are recorded by self-registering thermometers. For any month the sum of the daily maxima, divided by the number of days of the month, is the mean maximum temperature of that month. The minimum temperature is obtained in a similar manner. The half sum of the mean maximum and the mean minimum is called the mean temperature. The averages of these results for any particular month over a period of years are the average means for that period and are used as normal means or temperatures of reference. The highest and lowest temperatures recorded during the whole period of years are termed the extreme maximum and extreme minimum respectively. These latter figures are of course to be regarded as extraordinary, the more unlikely to recur the longer the period from which they have been derived. Temperatures below zero have the minus sign(−) prefixed. The mean winter temperature is based on the records of January, February, March, November and December, and the mean summer temperature is based on those of June, July and August.

PRECIPITATION.—Under the collective term "precipitation" is included all moisture which has been precipitated from the atmosphere upon the earth: rain, snow, hail, sleet, etc. The amount of moisture is conveniently measured by determining the depth to which it has accumulated upon an impervious surface, and is always expressed in inches of depth. The total depth of snow is tabulated separately, but is added to the depth of rain after division by ten. An extended series of experiments in melting and measuring snow having been collated, the rule was deduced that a given fall of snow will, in melting, diminish on the average to one-tenth of its original depth. This rule is used in practice. All solid forms of precipitation other than snow are included in the tables of rain.