

Conditions improved during the next day or two but by the morning of the 8th a very deep depression, the first of a new series, had moved on to the South Island giving rain in central districts and the south, accompanied by the thunderstorms already mentioned. There were severe north-westerly gales in the South Island, a tree being blown on to a train at Styx in North Canterbury. This depression moved off the country fairly rapidly, giving general rain in the North on the 9th. The 10th was a fine day generally, but a phenomenally deep and vigorous cyclone formed over New South Wales causing many severe northerly gales the next day in the Dominion, a 75-ton crane being overturned at Greymouth. Rain occurred in all western districts, but fortunately the centre of the storm passed to the south of New Zealand.

Apart from an intense one which gave general rain in central districts on the 20th the depressions in the next ten days, although frequent, were fairly weak, the weather being changeable with scattered rains and intervals of fair weather. This was the period in which the majority of the thunderstorms occurred.

Conditions were better on the 22nd to 24th, but the anticyclone which was approaching moved north, and an intense disturbance crossed the Dominion over Christmas, strong and unpleasantly cold south-westerly winds prevailing on the 26th.

From then on the weather in the North Island was relatively good but remained changeable and unsettled in the South Island.

EDWARD KIDSON, Director.

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE.

SUMMARY OF THE RECORDS OF TEMPERATURE, RAINFALL, AND SUNSHINE FOR DECEMBER, 1938.

Station.	Height of Station above M.S.L.	Air Temperatures in Degrees (Fahrenheit).								Rainfall in Inches.					Bright Sunshine (Hours).
		Means of		Mean of A and B.	Difference from Normal.	Absolute Maximum and Minimum.				Total Fall.	No. of Wet Days.	Difference from Normal.	Most in a Day.		
		A Max.	B Min.			Maximum.	Date.	Minimum.	Date.				Amount.	Date.	
	Ft.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.		°F.		In.		In.	In.		
Te Pahi, Te Hapua	200	69.1	56.0	62.6	(+0.9)	73.0	11	40.0	28	2.33	10	..	0.62	11	244.2
"Ramote," Kerikeri	400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Waipoua State Forest	225	67.5	53.4	60.4	(+0.1)	74.0	1	43.0	28, 29	6.52	18	..	1.24	2	223.2
Riverhead	105	67.0	50.6	58.8	(-0.5)	73.2	1	39.2	31	5.67	20	..	1.25	2	..
Auckland	160	68.8	57.2	63.0	+0.2	73.7	8	50.2	5	4.36	19	+1.18	1.60	2	264.2
Waihi	404	68.3	52.1	60.2	-2.1	76.8	1	39.0	24	5.89	20	+0.53	0.81	16	219.7
Wharekawa Nursery, Whangamata	50	71.4	51.9	61.6	..	77.0	8	41.0	24	4.39	16	..	0.98	2	..
Te Aroha	46	70.6	54.1	62.4	-1.1	77.0	1	40.5	24	5.54	18	+2.17	1.30	25	..
Tauranga	100	69.7	50.7	60.2	-1.4	78.0	27	42.0	26	6.75	16	+3.28	2.64	2	238.6
Ruakura Farm, Hamilton	131	68.0	50.1	59.0	-2.6	76.0	1	37.0	24	5.31	21	+2.15	0.83	9	195.2
Rotoehu Plantation	235	70.3	47.2	58.8	..	75.6	19	33.6	27	7.15	16	..	2.87	2	..
Rotorua	925	70.0	50.0	60.0	-1.1	78.2	27	39.7	23	5.61	17	+1.96	1.51	2	225.8
Whakarewarewa	1,000	70.1	48.3	59.2	-1.4	79.5	29	36.3	24	5.51	19	+1.68	1.54	2	..
Gisborne	25	72.8	51.8	62.3	..	78.8	25	41.0	28	1.66	12	..	0.58	4	252.8
Onepoto, Lake Waikaremoana	2,110	62.1	47.5	54.8	..	70.1	1	40.5	5	7.30	19	..	1.34	4	..
New Plymouth	190	64.0	52.0	58.0	-1.9	68.8	1	43.0	31	8.32	22	+4.11	1.09	2	222.5
Chateau Tongariro	3,670	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dawson Falls	3,100	55.4	42.0	48.7	..	65.0	28	37.0	4, 24	24.29	27	..	5.17	2	..
Karioi	2,125	60.6	42.6	51.6	(-1.9)	71.3	2	31.3	31	7.64	25	..	1.13	8	..
Napier	5	70.8	53.6	62.2	-0.3	79.9	25	42.5	28	4.53	12	+2.59	1.68	4	256.6
Hastings	45	72.8	49.4	61.1	-0.1	81.2	25	38.2	28	4.66	11	..	2.40	4	..
Taihape	2,157	60.6	45.1	52.8	-3.0	70.6	2	39.0	5	6.99	25	+3.73	1.48	4	..
Wanganui	72	66.6	52.7	59.6	..	79.6	2	46.2	31	6.39	23	..	0.74	20	228.5
Tangimoana	8	65.4	51.0	58.2	-2.2	75.0	2	43.0	24	6.53	22	+3.83	1.58	20	..
Palmerston North	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Massey College, P.N.	110	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pahiatua	384	64.3	48.5	56.4	(-4.0)	78.2	2	35.0	28	8.34	25	(+4.69)	1.74	4	..
Kapiti Island	44	64.2	53.0	58.6	-0.5	73.0	2	48.0	18, 20	9.06	17	+5.98	1.97	24	..
Masterton	387	67.6	47.6	57.6	-3.0	80.1	2	34.5	28	4.61	18	+1.84	1.72	4	232.5
Wellington	415	62.9	50.4	56.6	-2.8	70.8	2	44.1	24, 28	7.41	16	(+4.48)	1.82	4	197.2
Nelson	24	67.8	49.6	58.7	-1.9	74.9	5	41.3	24	8.22	15	+5.26	2.54	2	245.6
Appleby, Nelson	57	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blenheim	30	71.2	49.5	60.4	(-1.8)	79.8	1, 29	39.2	24	4.63	16	(+2.90)	1.44	7	229.5
Golden Downs	900	65.2	43.8	54.5	(-2.7)	71.5	5	33.5	24	7.69	14	..	2.02	7	..
Waihopai	860	67.1	46.7	56.9	(-3.1)	77.7	1	38.0	24	6.98	15	..	1.70	7	..
Westport	23	61.0	51.0	56.0	..	64.0	26, 27	44.0	23	15.65	27	..	2.27	2	205.6
Hammer Springs	1,225	65.5	43.8	54.6	-2.9	77.2	1	31.8	24	5.10	20	+1.30	1.25	4	186.8
Balmoral	743	66.1	46.0	56.0	(-3.2)	78.0	1	32.0	24	3.87	18	..	0.82	4	..
Hokitika	12	62.5	48.2	55.4	-2.2	67.0	27	41.0	23	17.01	26	+6.64	2.18	28	176.1
Lake Coleridge	1,220	65.3	45.8	55.6	-2.4	74.5	3	36.5	22	4.06	19	+1.63	0.70	16	..
Christchurch	22	66.9	49.5	58.2	-1.6	79.0	11	38.9	24	3.32	17	+0.86	0.72	16	232.9
Wigram Aerodrome, Sockburn	74	67.2	48.1	57.6	..	80.1	29	37.5	24	3.44	18	..	0.78	22	..
Rudstone, Methven	1,217	63.6	45.9	54.8	(-2.2)	73.0	2	35.0	23	7.67	18	+3.86	1.66	6	232.4
Lincoln	36	66.8	48.0	57.4	-2.3	79.3	11	37.0	24	4.71	18	+2.54	1.38	22	243.5
Onawe, Duvauchelle's Bay	150	67.9	49.8	58.8	..	77.3	12	41.0	24	3.25	15	..	0.80	16	..
Hermitage, Mount Cook	2,510	57.7	40.5	49.1	(-3.1)	70.2	31	31.5	5	20.28	25	+8.94	2.71	8	..
Ashburton	323	67.2	47.1	57.2	(-0.8)	77.0	11	37.0	24	4.82	13	+2.11	1.00	16	..
Lake Tekapo	2,350	60.5	42.0	51.2	(-3.8)	69.3	1	32.5	5	2.84	13	..	0.53	21	211.9
Jacksons Bay	22	62.4	47.1	54.8	..	71.2	27	41.4	7	17.65	24	..	2.53	14	..
Fairlie	1,000	65.6	43.9	54.8	(-3.8)	79.0	29	33.0	5	5.24	14	..	0.91	25	205.3
Timaru	56	..	48.0	..	..	..	..	41.2	5	6.76	17	+4.34	1.54	16	206.5
Waimate	200	65.6	48.1	56.8	-0.7	76.0	31	42.0	4tms	5.12	19	+2.30	0.86	16	150.3
Milford Sound	23	60.5	47.5	54.0	..	70.0	20	41.1	28	31.20	22	..	5.50	1	..
Queenstown	1,110	63.7	44.7	54.2	(-2.8)	77.6	2	37.8	7	2.66	19	+0.15	0.40	21	178.2
Ophir	1,000	64.3	45.7	55.0	-3.4	78.1	2	35.4	16	3.35	16	+1.81	1.15	3	..
Waipiata	1,550	62.3	42.8	52.6	-3.2	79.0	2	34.4	23	4.20	18	..	1.15	2	195.8
Alexandra	520	66.6	47.6	57.1	(-2.8)	81.0	2	38.7	19	1.68	17	(+0.27)	0.42	16	215.9
Manorburn Dam	2,448	56.8	39.4	48.1	(-3.2)	70.0	2	31.5	7	2.64	15	+0.46	0.75	3	..
Dunedin	240	62.0	47.1	54.6	-1.5	76.0	2	41.0	23	10.89	28	+7.42	5.42	3	155.2
Invercargill	12	62.3	46.9	54.6	-0.8	81.0	2	37.0	5	7.70	23	+3.70	2.10	21	161.1

LATE RETURNS.

Massey College, P.N., November, 1938	110	65.9	52.6	59.2	(+3.3)	76.1	7	41.5	16	2.87	15	(-0.85)	0.64	2	167.3
Ashburton, November, 1938	323	64.8	46.9	55.8	+0.8	78.2	11	37.5	4	3.52	11	+1.19	1.48	28	..

NOTE.—At stations where departures from normal are in parentheses the record has been maintained for less than ten years in the case of temperatures and for less than twenty years in the case of rainfall, and the normals are interpolated.