WEATHER OF NORTH AMERICA AND ADJACENT OCEANS.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

By A. J. Henry, Meteorologist.

The distribution of normal pressure over the Northern Hemisphere for March differs but slightly from that of February except that there is a rather pronounced fall over the great Continental Highs mounting to 45 degrees N. latitude.

Precipitation was generally ample in amount and well distributed both in time and space. The snow cover was decidedly less than the average, except in the higher altitudes of the Rocky Mountain region.

Severe local storms and tornadoes occurred, but their number was not in excess of the normal expectancy.

Severe floods were entirely absent and the usual spring rise in the rivers in northern districts was distinctly affected by the absence of any considerable snow cover.

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN.

By F. A. Young.

The general atmospheric conditions for March, 1919, showed a decided contrast to those of the previous month when the average pressure was considerably below the normal. For the month under discussion the mean barometric readings at a number of stations on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts were above the normal, the same conditions holding true at the Azores and Bermudas. Not enough vessel reports were received in time to determine accurately the average pressure over the different divisions of the ocean, although from an examination of those at hand it is evident that over the steamer lanes the pressure was also higher than usual.

The number of days on which gales occurred was apparently not far from the normal over the greater part of the ocean, except that in the western part of the steamer lanes they seemed to be slightly more frequent than usual.

On March 1 a low was central in the vicinity of latitude 45°, longitude 30°, and moderate to strong westerly and northwesterly gales prevailed over the area between the 35th and 45th parallels and the 35th and 55th meridians, accompanied by accompanied and hail over the eastern section. During the next four days this disturbance moved eastward with a fairly uniform rate, diminishing gradually in intensity, and on the 5th the center was near Brest, France.

On the 4th there was a well-developed low near latitude 43° and longitude 55°. The cyclonic movement of the wind was very marked, and southerly gales of from 40 to 60 miles were reported from the easterly quadrants, while northerly winds of about the same force prevailed west of the center. This disturbance drifted slowly eastward, and on the 5th was central near latitude 43°, longitude 43°, the storm area having contracted slightly since the previous day.

From the 6th to the 8th the circulation of the air, for the most part, was comparatively sluggish, and unusually high pressure prevailed over the western division of the ocean. On the latter date, however, one vessel near latitude 55°, longitude 27°, reported a westerly gale the morning of the 9th westerly gales were encountered in of about 50 miles an hour, accompanied by 'hail.' On mid-ocean, north of the 45th parallel, and while no storm reports were received from vessels off the American coast, the anemometer at New York registered a velocity of 48 miles an hour from the east, with a maximum force of 56 miles during the night of the 8th.

On the 10th there was a well-developed low central near Halifax, N. S., where the barometer reading was 29.40 inches, while at St. Johns, Newfoundland, it read 30.24