

of the values for two years excepting the months of August and September, 1877, when I was reluctantly compelled to seek medical advice. These two returns are very instructive, and enable a reliable opinion to be formed as to the usefulness of the work.

Return No. 4 shows the distribution of a storm warning issued in February last, showing an easterly gale in the southern part of the colony; the low area which caused this gale passed to the southward of the Bluff, on a route of about north-east by north, which, in fact, has been the most prevalent one since December, 1878.

Return No. 5 shows the warnings issued in advance of an easterly gale experienced in June last; the approach of this gale was only absolutely determined late on the evening of the 25th, and I was unable to get warnings sent to Hokianga and Russell before the gale had begun. The warnings were repeated to the Middle Island stations the next day, and much heavy weather was experienced on the eastern coast; but these second warnings have not been included in this return. The low area which caused this gale came from about north-west; and, from reports in the newspapers, &c., there seems but little doubt that it also visited Brisbane and Sydney, as it had been blowing hard from the eastward at the latter place two days before the gale commenced in this colony, and at Brisbane the barometer read 29.25 on the 24th June, with a gale from the south-east. These areas do not often visit us, but they can be distinctly traced.

The remaining returns illustrate the manner in which the information is supplied to the central office. Similar matter has been published with previous reports. These returns have been selected for geographical position, thus enabling a better idea to be formed of the work and its results.

The results of the warnings are in all cases decided by the officers who receive them. This plan has been in use during the last five years, and has always been found to work well; and there can be no doubt that the verdict of those at the place must be more reliable than any data compiled in a central office. I have made no returns of the results for Wellington, as I should have to make them out myself, and they might therefore be considered too favourable. The results for New Plymouth may be considered the same as those for Opunake.

The work of this office has on more than one occasion been favourably noticed by the press since the last report, and for the last nineteen months daily forecasts have been published in the Wellington evening papers. From the experience already gained I have no hesitation in saying that a daily forecast could now be sent to such other evening papers as care to publish it. The Press Agency would no doubt undertake to forward it; but to insure the forecast being in time for daily publication at all other places, it will be absolutely necessary to have the report complete by 10 a.m. at the latest. To enable the morning papers throughout the colony to publish a weather forecast, a second complete daily weather report will be required at a later hour, as, under the present circumstances, so far as the morning papers are concerned, the interval between the completion of the forecast and its publication is so great that the information is of very little use. Much of the usefulness of a service of this kind depends upon the wire; and I have to acknowledge the cordial co-operation of Dr. Lemon and the officers of the Telegraph Department.

R. A. EDWIN,

The Hon. the Minister for Marine Department.

Commander R.N.

No. 1.—RETURN showing Percentage of Correct Forecast at the undermentioned Places during the Twelve Months ending 30th June, 1879.

Place.	Direction of Wind.	Force of Wind.	Barometer Movement.	Sea Movement.	Gales without Warning.	Remarks.
	%	%	%	%	%	
Hokianga ... ..	88.23	27.38	71.26	...	6.59	The warnings are limited to an area of 12 points of the compass. Force — 7 of Beaufort scale is the lowest for which warnings are considered as being verified.
Russell ... ..	80.89	16.85	67.81	43.51	...	
Whangarei ... ..	79.68	46.77	87.50	...	0.15	
Coromandel ... ..	82.09	43.28	73.01	...	...	
Tokatea (altitude, 1,200 feet)...	91.82	77.58	81.13	...	...	
Manukau (altitude, 900 feet)	96.05	34.21	76.00	84.61	...	
Auckland ... ..	72.42	36.14	55.12	...	3.33	
Grahamstown ... ..	98.43	51.56	71.87	...	4.47	
Cambridge (altitude, 200 feet)	87.93	64.63	78.43	...	...	
Tauranga ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	See Report.
Opotiki ... ..	87.62	43.87	76.34	68.42	1.02	See Report.
Taupo (altitude, 1,200 feet) ...	...	...	...	...	...	
Gisborne ... ..	87.78	47.19	69.44	75.76	1.09	
Opunake (altitude, 100 feet)...	91.81	40.00	66.36	85.43	0.90	
Napier ... ..	93.18	44.31	73.49	61.54	2.22	
Wanganui ... ..	96.07	48.03	73.00	...	3.77	
Castlepoint ... ..	94.73	47.74	87.96	73.68	9.52	
Nelson ... ..	95.35	11.62	83.33	...	1.14	
Tophouse (altitude, 2,300 feet)	87.72	88.11	76.76	...	...	
Blenheim ... ..	92.85	25.51	79.16	...	1.00	See Report.
Westport ... ..	66.31	30.85	70.65	63.09	1.04	
Kaikoura ... ..	68.21	34.88	71.90	76.00	...	
Kekerangu ... ..	93.51	86.11	91.17	83.33	0.90	
Hokitika ... ..	92.59	26.85	83.49	85.24	...	
Bealey (altitude, 2,180 feet) ...	91.02	71.79	78.28	...	...	
Lyttelton ... ..	92.66	29.35	71.96	35.74	1.80	
Timaru ... ..	73.81	10.97	69.51	55.56	...	
Oamaru ... ..	79.67	34.96	74.59	47.61	...	
Naseby (altitude, 2,000 feet)...	82.60	5.79	78.40	...	...	
Port Chalmers ... ..	82.40	57.79	80.18	...	...	See Report.
Queenstown (altitude, 1,100 feet)	93.58	47.36	85.39	...	...	
Roxburgh (altitude, 300 feet)	91.00	39.00	94.89	...	...	
Balclutha ... ..	93.33	32.22	79.54	...	...	
Bluff ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	
Mean average for twelve months ...	87.36	43.63	76.67	71.96	1.25	