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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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REPORT FOR MARCH, 1899.

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MARYLAND AND DELAWARE SECTION

OF THE

CLIMATE AND CROP SERVICE

OF THE

WEATHER BUREAU.

IN COOPERATION WITH THE

MARYLAND STATE WEATHER SERVICE.

(Prof. Wm. B. Clark, Director; Prof. Milton Whitney, Secretary and Treasurer.)

PREPARED UNDER DIRECTION OF

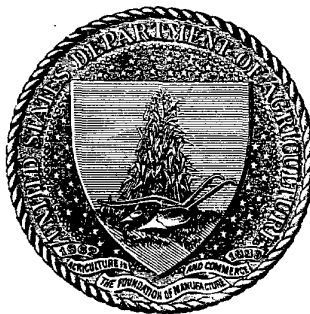
WILLIS L. MOORE,

CHIEF OF WEATHER BUREAU.

BY

F. J. WALZ,

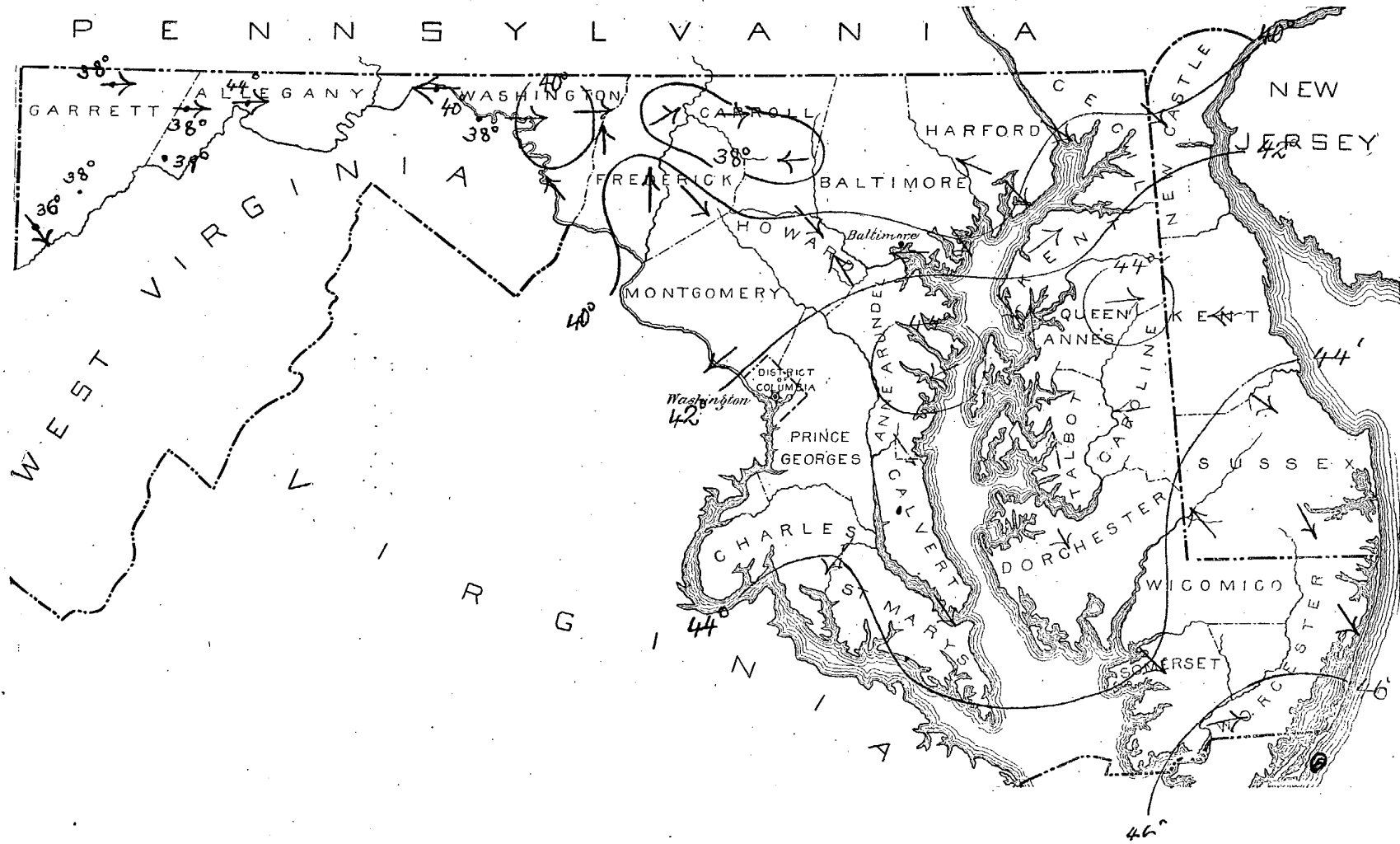
SECTION DIRECTOR.



BALTIMORE, MD.:  
WEATHER BUREAU OFFICE.  
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY.

1899.

MONTHLY MEAN ISOTHERMS AND PREVAILING WINDS, MARCH, 1899.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

## CLIMATE AND CROP SERVICE

OF THE

## WEATHER BUREAU.

CENTRAL OFFICE: WASHINGTON, D. C.

BALTIMORE, MD.

VOL. IV.

BALTIMORE, MD.

No. 3.

## WEATHER BUREAU WORK AT BALTIMORE.

THE Baltimore Office began operations January 1, 1871, and was one among the first meteorological stations established by the U. S. Weather Service. It is a station of the first class, fully equipped with self-recording instruments for registering barometric pressure, wind velocity and direction, rainfall, sunshine, etc. It is also a local forecast station at which predictions are made and issued for the city and vicinity, and a distributing center for the dissemination of forecasts, storm warnings, cold wave and frost warnings, and other important weather information.

Baltimore is also a section center for climate and crop work, the gathering of information and the publishing of bulletins and summaries bearing upon climate and crops for the States of Maryland and Delaware. In the climate and crop work there are some seventy-five volunteer observers scattered through these two States, who report regularly to this office each month the record of daily temperatures, rainfall, and other weather data. There are also some one hundred and fifty correspondents, who report weekly, during the crop season, upon the growth and development of the various crops. A number of the correspondents also include rainfall reports for the week. \* \* \*

**WEATHER FORECASTING.** In order to intelligently predict the coming weather for even a small section of the country, it is necessary to know the weather conditions that exist simultaneously over a large part of the country at the same time, especially over the sections to the west of the place for which the prediction is to be made, as the weather of a place depends upon the atmospheric conditions developed to the west of it.

To guide the forecaster at Baltimore in making predictions, telegraphic reports of weather elements are received at the station twice a day from about 110 stations scattered throughout the United States and Canada. These telegraphic reports are the results of simultaneous observations made at these various stations at 8 a. m. and 8 p. m., respectively. The information they give is: Pressure of the air for each station, reduced to a sea level and a standard temperature of 32°; temperature of the air; wet bulb temperature; the precipitation; wind movement and direction; clouds (the amount and direction); the maximum wind velocity and direction in the past twenty-four hours, and the time of beginning and ending of thunderstorms. These telegrams are all sent in cipher, for which purpose a condensed and comprehensive code has been arranged.

At 7.40 o'clock (75th meridian time) each morning and evening the observers at different stations begin taking their observations from accurately tested and standardized instruments, noting all the elementary conditions of the air, such as pressure, temperature, wind velocity and direction, rainfall, etc. By 8 o'clock the necessary mathematical corrections have been made, all observations reduced to the cipher, and each filed at the local telegraph office. During the next thirty or forty minutes these telegrams, with the right of

way over all lines, are hurrying to their destinations, each station contributing its own observations and receiving in return, by systematic telegraphic circuits, such observations from other stations as it may require. As fast as the reports come over the wires, they are quickly delivered, and the cipher translated into figures and words of intelligible order.

The weather conditions given are then entered on a geographical map at the different places, respectively. The barometer, temperature, and other data, which are represented by figures, are written near the places so reporting; while by the use of symbols, with arrows to show the direction of the wind, the other weather elements, such as clear, cloudy, rain, wind direction, etc., are shown. Blue pencil lines are then drawn through points having the same atmospheric pressure, a separate line being drawn for each one-tenth of an inch of barometer, and are called isobars. Then lines connecting places having the same temperature are drawn in red for each ten degrees of thermometer. These lines are called isotherms. We now have a chart or picture showing the weather conditions throughout the country at the same instant of time.

On every map, after these systems of lines are drawn, we will find an area, as shown by the isobars, where the barometer is lower than anywhere else in the surrounding regions. This area is designated as a "Low." Likewise we will find an area or areas where the barometer is higher than anywhere else in the surrounding regions, which area is designated as a "High." In the great ocean of air that surrounds the earth, as in the ocean of water, there are constantly occurring waves and hollows—areas where the air is piled up and others where it is depressed. The hollows are the depressions which we call "Lows"; the crests of the waves, "Highs." The "Highs" are usually attended by fair and cool, or cold weather. The "Lows," popularly known as storms, are usually preceded and accompanied by cloudiness, rain or snow, and more or less high winds; the influence of the disturbance often extends a distance of 500 to 600 miles from the center of the storm. The area of the storm disturbance may vary from 500 to 1,500 miles in diameter and maintains distinctive characteristics throughout its formation and movement. We may divide these areas into four quadrants, each of which shows distinctive features which are maintained as long as the identity of the storm lasts. These quadrants briefly described are as follows: The *northeast quadrant* is distinguished by great humidity, light winds, and cloud formation, especially in the southern portion, together with precipitation. The *southeast quadrant* contains the maximum of heat and moisture and is the origin of all severe local storms, especially the tornado. The *southwest quadrant* is marked by clearing weather, frequently with rain in the eastern portion, falling temperature and diminishing humidity. The *northwest quadrant* has the minimum of heat and moisture, an absence of clouds and brisk cold winds. From the nature then of storm formation, precipitation is confined to certain parts of the area of the "Lows"; the rain area extends to the south and east from 300 to 500 miles in advance of the storm center. In advance of the "Low" the winds are generally easterly or southerly, and bring higher temperature. When the center of a "Low" passes to the east of a place the wind at once shifts to the west or northwest, bringing lower temperature. The "Lows" are technically called cyclones on account of the spiral inward movement of the winds about them in the direction opposite to that in which the hands of a watch move. The "Highs" are called anticyclones on account of the wind flowing spirally outward from the center and in the direction the hands of a watch move. The formation, movement, and prevalence of these "Highs" and "Lows" across the United States practically control the current weather conditions and changes; and it is from charting

these daily and watching their movement, with a knowledge and study of the laws governing their formation, characteristics and movements, that weather forecasts are made.

The birthplace of nearly all of our storms is either in the Gulf Region, off the Pacific Coast or in the Far Northwest, and their final destination the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Their rate of movement varies, the average drift eastward being at the rate of about 600 miles daily, and their periods average about three days each; that is, the time required for the storm condition to move across from the point from which it enters the United States to the point from which it leaves is about three days. "Lows" move faster than "Highs."

The high areas enter the United States from only two points. In the winter they usually originate in Alberta to the north of Montana, while in summer the larger number of "Highs" enter from the Pacific Ocean about the latitude of Oregon. The "Lows" have some nine places or districts of inception or entrance into the United States. The paths of both are from west to east, and the "Lows" all try sooner or later to leave the United States in the neighborhood of New England. The paths of both "Highs" and "Lows" usually follow well established tracks, and it is this fact, together with the more or less constant characteristics maintained by them, that is the basis of all predictions of future weather and weather changes.

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#### FARMING OPERATIONS IN MARYLAND AND DELAWARE.

A wet and cloudy March has made the season very backward to date. Air temperatures have not been far from normal, but the soil has been continually damp, cold, and unfavorable to growth. Up to the close of the month very little ground had been broken. Timothy and clover sowing made fair progress, but no oats are in the ground yet. In the southern counties some peas and potatoes have been planted, and in the tobacco growing districts the beds have been prepared and some seeded. Wheat continues in poor condition in the saturated lowlands, and on high knobs where swept by the winter winds, but looks better on moderately elevated and well drained fields. Considerable wheat and old clover was thrown out by the frosts, and in many cases causing thin stands. Scarcely any peaches are expected, but present prospects point to half a crop of pears and probably a full crop of apples. Good yields of maple syrup have been secured in the western counties. All farm work is much behind.

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#### CLIMATOLOGY OF THE MONTH.

##### ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE—IN INCHES AND HUNDREDTHS.

Monthly mean at Washington, D. C., 29.99; at Baltimore, 29.96; average, 29.98; highest, 30.44 at Washington, D. C., on the 14th; lowest, 29.04 at Washington, D. C., on the 19th.

##### TEMPERATURE—IN DEGREES FAHRENHEIT.

The monthly mean (entire territory), 41.4, is 0.3 below the normal.

The highest monthly mean was 46.4, at Pocomoke City.

The lowest monthly mean was 34.9, at Grantsville.

The highest temperature recorded during the month was 77, at Hancock, on the 12th.

The lowest temperature recorded during the month was 1, at Sunnyside, on the 7th.

The greatest local monthly range was 67, at Deer Park and Sunnyside.

The least local monthly range was 35, at Annapolis.

The greatest daily range was 42, at Boettcherville, the 11th.

The least daily range was 1, at Cumberland, on the 3d, and at Wyoming, Del., on the 13th and 16th.

#### PRECIPITATION—IN INCHES AND HUNDREDTHS.

The monthly average (entire territory) 4.92, was 1.50 above the normal.

The greatest amount was 7.42, at Sunnyside.

The least amount was 2.44, at Boonsboro b.

The greatest amount in twenty-four hours was 2.02, at Bachman's Valley, on the 18th and 19th.

The average number of rainy days, 11.

#### WIND.

The prevailing direction was from the northwest.

The total movement was 5,040 miles, at Baltimore, and 7,328 miles, at Washington, D. C.

The maximum wind velocity was 40 miles per hour from the northwest, at Washington, D. C., on the 7th.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The following are dates on which various miscellaneous phenomena occurred:

*Snow.*—Annapolis, 6; Bachman's Valley, 7, 19, 25; Baltimore, 7, 19; Boettcherville, 6; Boonsboro, 7; Cambridge, 7; Charlotte Hall, 6; Chase, 7; Chestertown, 6, 7, 19; Chewsville, 7; Clear Spring, 7; Coleman, 7; Cumberland, 7; Deer Park, 8, 20, 29; Denton, 7; Easton, 7; Fallston, 7, 19, 25; Frederick, 7, 24; Frostburg, 7, 20, 29; Grantsville, 7, 8, 29; Great Falls, 7; Hagerstown, 6; Hancock, 7; Harney, 7, 25; Green Spring Furnace, 7, 25; Jewell, 4; Laurel, 7; Maryland Agricultural College, 7; Milford, Del., 7; Millsboro, Del., 7; Mt. St. Mary's, 6, 25; Newark, Del., 7, 19, 25; New Market, 7, 21, 24, 25; Pocomoke City, 7; Port Deposit, 7; Princes Anne, 7; Rock Hall a, 7; Rock Hall b, 6, 19; Sandy Point, 7; Sharpsburg, 7, 25, 29; Smithsburg a, 6; Smithsburg b, 7, 19, 24, 25, 29; Solomons, 7; Seaford, Del., 7; St. Charles College, 7; Sunnyside, 7, 8, 16, 19, 24, 25, 29; Taneytown, 8, 25; Van Bibber, 6, 19; Western Md. College, 7, 19; Westernport, 6, 19, 20, 28, 29; Woodstock, 7; Wyoming, Del., 7.

*Sleet.*—Bachman's Valley, 28; Boonsboro b, 15; Chewsville, 14, 18; Clear Spring b, 15, 22; Green Spring Furnace, 15; Mt. St. Mary's, 14; New Market, 25; Princess Anne, 14; Sharpsburg, 14; Smithsburg a, 22; Smithsburg b, 22; Taneytown, 22; Western Md. College, 14, 21; Woodstock, 28.

*Hail.*—Bachman's Valley, 19; Cambridge, 14; Frostburg, 19; New Earket, 5, 18; Princess Anne, 5; Sharpsburg, 15; Smithsburg a, 28; Smithsburg b, 15; Solomons, 28; St. Charles College, 12; Taneytown, 14, 29; Woodstock, 12.

*Thunderstorms.*—Annapolis, 4; Bachman's Valley, 5; Baltimore, 5, 12, 13, 19, 28; Boettcherville, 15, 28; Boonsboro a, 4, 15, 19, 28; Boonsboro b, 5, 12, 28; Cambridge, 19, 28; Charlotte Hall, 5; Chase, 4, 19; Chestertown, 4, 12, 19; Chewsville 26; Clear Spring b, 4, 15, 19, 28; Coleman, 5, 12, 19, 28; Denton, 5; Easton, 12, 28; Fallston, 4, 12, 19, 28; Frederick, 5; Grantsville, 4, 15, 28; Hancock, 12, 27; Harney, 5, 12, 28; Green Spring Furnace, 12, 19, 28; Jewell, 4, 12; Kirkwood, Del., 12; Laurel, 4, 12; Mardela Springs, 5, 10, 18, 25, 28; Md. Agricultural College, 4; Millsboro, Del., 19; Mt. St. Mary's, 5, 12, 28; Newark, Del., 5, 12; New Market, 4, 12, 18; Pocomoke City, 19, 28; Princess Anne, 5, 19, 28; Rock Hall a, 12, 19; Rock Hall b, 5, 19; Sharpsburg, 4, 19, 27; Smithsburg a, 4, 12, 19, 28; Smithsburg b, 5, 19, 28; Solomons, 4, 5, 12, 19, 22, 28; Seaford, Del., 5; St. Charles College, 4, 12; Sudlersville, 4, 12; Sunnyside, 4, 15, 19, 22, 28, 30; Taneytown, 5, 12, 28; Van Bibber, 4, 12, 28; Washington, 5, 12, 19; Western Md. College, 4, 12; Woodstock, 5, 12, 28; Wyoming, Del., 31.

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#### CORRECTION.

In the January number of Climate and Crops the observations for Clear Spring No. 1, should be credited to Clear Spring No. 2.

Climatological data for Maryland and Delaware, March, 1899.

Table with columns: Stations, Counties, Elevation, Length of record, Temperature (Mean, Departure from normal, Highest, Date, Lowest, Date, Greatest daily range), Precipitation (Total, Departure from normal, Greatest in 24 hours, Total snowfall, Number rainy days), Sky (Number clear, Number partly cloudy, Number cloudy), Prevailing direction of wind, Observers. Rows are categorized by region: WESTERN MARYLAND, NORTHERN-CENTRAL MD., SOUTHERN MARYLAND, EASTERN MARYLAND, and DELAWARE.

NOTE—All records are used in determining State or district means, but State and district departures are determined by comparison of current data of only such stations as have normals.

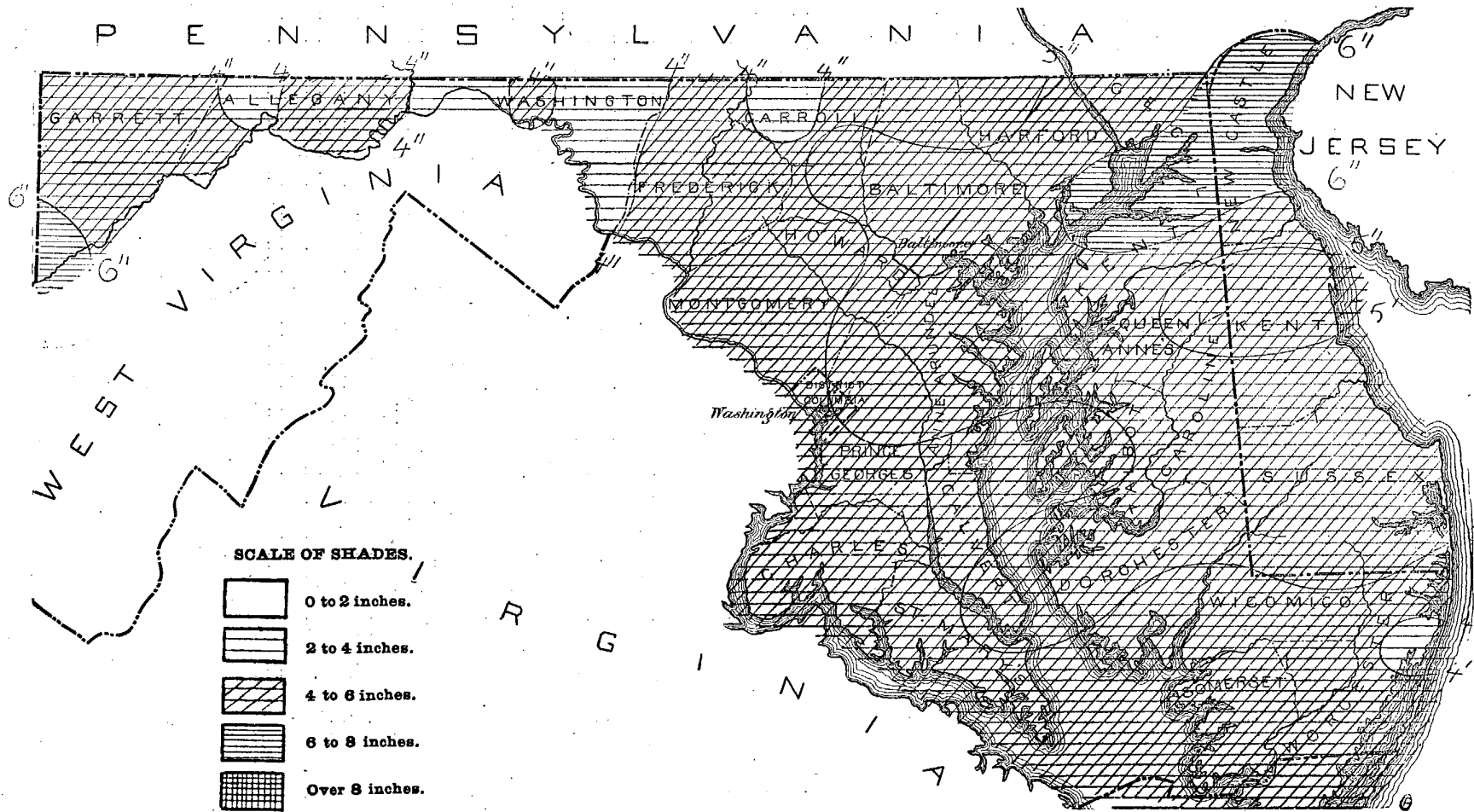
\* Mean of 8 a. m. + 8 p. m. + 2.
† Mean of 7 a. m. + 2 p. m. + 2.

Maximum and minimum temperatures for Maryland and Delaware, March, 1899.

Table with columns for Stations, 1-31, and Monthly mean. Rows list various stations like Annapolis, Baltimore, etc., with corresponding temperature data.

CLIMATE AND CROPS: MARYLAND AND DELAWARE SECTION. MARCH, 1899.

TOTAL PRECIPITATION, MARCH, 1899.



Daily precipitation for Maryland and Delaware, March, 1899.

Table with 32 columns (Days 1-31) and 4 rows (Stations, Day of month, Total). Sub-sections include WESTERN MARYLAND, NORTHERN-CENTRAL MARYLAND, SOUTHERN MARYLAND, and DELAWARE. Values represent precipitation in inches, with '†' for trace.

† Trace, when precipitation is less than 0. or inch.

\* For 22 days only.