

was 54.8 degrees at Lewiston, and the lowest 30.0 at Lake. The highest temperature reached during the month was 70 degrees at Payette on the 26th, and the lowest 6 degrees, at Lake, on the first, making an absolute range of 34 degrees for the month; the greatest local monthly range of temperature was at Idaho City, 71 degrees, and the least, Rexburg and Lake, 45 degrees.

The average precipitation was 1.02 inches, a deficiency of 0.68 inch from April, 1896; the greatest amount was at Murray, 2.40 inches, and the least at Burnside, 0.02 inch; the greatest in any 24 hour period was 0.58 inch at Nampa, on the 6th; average number days with .01 inch or more of precipitation 6. Clear days 17; partly cloudy 7; cloudy 6.

Prevailing wind direction, south; average hourly velocity (from records at Idaho Falls and Nampa), 9.0 miles; maximum velocity (at Nampa), 39 miles an hour from the northwest on the 10th.

WEATHER REPORT FOR APRIL.

The weather during the month of April was more or less stormy from the 1st to the 7th, with rain and snow at intervals, and freezing night temperatures. During the middle of the month the weather was warm and clear, and very favorable for general farm work, which progressed rapidly to all districts where the soil was in condition for plowing and seeding. The last week of the month was moderately warm and generally clear, with light thunderstorms in various parts of the State on the 28th. The mean temperature of the State was 47 degrees; highest monthly mean, 50 degrees at Moab, Grand county, and St. George, Washington county; lowest monthly mean temperature, 35 degrees at Woodruff, Rich county. The highest temperature recorded during the month was 93 degrees at St. George, Washington county, on the 16th, and the lowest, 6 degrees at Koonseam, Piute county, on the 1st; range of temperature for the State, 87 degrees. At most stations the highest temperature of the month occurred on the 18th, and the lowest on the 1st. The precipitation of the month was unevenly distributed and generally below the normal in all sections, with a marked deficiency throughout the southern portion of the State. The average for the State was .89 of an inch; greatest monthly amount recorded was 3.25 inches at Pantresh, Kane county, and the least a trace at Frisco, Beaver county. The average number of clear days was 15; partly cloudy days 10, and cloudy days, 5. The average number of days on which precipitation occurred in measurable amounts was 5. At Salt Lake City there was 67 per cent of sunshine during the month. The prevailing winds were from the southwest, and the highest velocity recorded was forty miles per hour from the north, at Salt Lake City on the 10th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Thunderstorms (stations and dates of occurrences)—Giles, 26th, 27th; Levan, 20th, 27th, 30th; Parowan, 24th, 26th; Solpio, 20th, 30th; Salt Lake City, 28th; St. George, 26th; Tropic, 26th, 29th; Aurora, Ferron, 16th. Hail—Giles, 7th; Levan, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th,

20th and 22nd; Solpio, 20th. Sunday, Moab, 3rd. Sleet—Parowan, 24th; Thistle, 6th. Light frost—St. George, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 8th, 11th; Tumble, 1st, 8th, 12th, 13th, 16th, 23rd; Snowville, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th; Ferron, 23rd; St. George, 1st to 10th; Levan, 23rd; Moab, 16th.

J. H. SMITH,
Section Director.

THE INDIAN FAMINE.

A little over four months ago I heard of the distress of the people to Central India, and at once my heart went out to them in sympathy. The human common sense said, "You had better stop here, and 'Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it,' here. You have no means and no strength to do what you wish. Your powers are limited and you will not be held responsible for not doing anything to help those famished people. Indeed, what can a weak woman do to help the dying thousands? Besides, the government of India and other benevolent people are doing what they can to relieve the poor and needy. There is nothing for you to do." I tried to quiet my conscience in this manner, but louder and louder spoke the voice of God from within my heart. "Remember the days of old." "Thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondsman in the land of Egypt and the Lord thy God redeemed thee."

[Ramabai had herself experienced the extremity of distress in the famine of 1877, which miserably destroyed both her parents, and her sister, and almost herself.]

I could no longer keep still, and about a month ago, started off for the Central provinces. A missionary lady Mrs. Dryan, of Rajputana, accompanied me part of the way, to gather some children for mission orphanages of Poona. We went to Sahagpur first, and began the work at once. We found out from the good people there that we could not get the orphan children without the permission of the government. So our first business was to go and see the physician in charge of the hospital, and the Tahsil-dar in charge of the poorhouse. We went to the hospital too early, about 8:30 in the morning; the doctor was not there, but right before that hospital were walking three little famished skeleton-like forms, and this first sight of their distress I shall never forget. The three children, we found out, were those of the Chamer caste, their father had died some time ago, and the mother died only the day before. The eldest was a girl of about seven, the second a boy of five, and the youngest a baby boy three years of age. The girl was protecting herself from the intense cold with a covering of rags, and the two boys had nothing on their bodies. Their wrinkled faces and the ghastly death-like expression told the story of the terrible suffering they were in. All of them were crying for food. And as we had no food with us, we could give nothing to them. The youngest had sore eyes and could scarcely open them. The poor babe was suffering from dysentery, so much so that his intestines had been exposed and were almost falling out, and yet he was dragging

his miserable body through the streets in search of food. To add to his misery, he fell down and hurt his back, frightened at the sound of the bullock cart, and the loud call of the driver. The blood flowed freely from the injured part which was already so sore and painful, but there was no one to care for him. He was crying, but tears were not to be seen in his eyes. The children were right before the hospital but no one showed any sign of pity. As we could do nothing, we had to harden our hearts and turn our steps toward the Poor houses where we expected to find the Tahsil-dar. We did not get the children, though we tried our best. It took us such a long time to go and see the officer in charge of the Poor house, and by the time we returned, they had gone somewhere, and no one could tell us where they were. I went again to that place, made a thorough search all over the town and round about it, but did not find them. Perhaps they fainted on their way to the town in quest of food and fell down in some ditch on the roadside and died there of hunger.

The Poor houses we saw was no house at all. It was a grove in the outskirts of the town. Groups of famished people were seen sitting all round the grove. Some were lying down in heaps, or sitting or lying in ashes on the dirty ground. Some had rags to cover their bodies, and some had none. There were old and young men, and women and children, most of them ill, too weak to move about, and many suffering from leprosy and other unmentionable diseases. Bad men, immoral women, pure young girls, innocent children and old people, good, bad and indifferent, were freely mixing and conversing with each other. They slept in the open air or under the trees at night, and ate the scanty and coarse food provided by the government. The food was nothing but dry flour and some salt.

Many of the so-called poor houses are open grounds with a sort of fence around them. Some poor houses are nothing but sheds temporarily erected to shelter the people. The miserable men, women and children, who find shelter in these places, are baked in the sun in the day and freeze in cold at night. In some places these poor houses or grounds are divided with a thin fencing, where men and women are placed separately. But this arrangement is not much of a protection to the women. The devil is a work, even in these poor houses and relief camps, and they are not fit places for young women and girls to be in. The European and native officers employed to look after the interests of the dying thousands are hard at work, and try to do as much as they can. But it is impossible for them to find out what goes on behind their backs; they are obliged to leave the work in the hands of the Mukadams, who can do whatever they like; they use their sticks and tongues freely. Young men can be seen everywhere talking to girls and women under the pretense of doing the Mukadam's work.

This is no good sign at all. Wicked men and women are everywhere, on the lookout for young women and