

# Bad Weather Receives Blame For Recent Business Quirks

By ELMER C. WALZER  
UPI Financial Editor

New York (UPI) — Snow, sleet and rain throughout the nation has taken the blame for all sorts of business quirks in recent weeks.

And that's why businessmen are looking forward to spring which is due in less than a week.

Cold, stormy weather over many parts of the nation recently has been blamed for

curtailment of automobile production, although there have been voluntary cutbacks too as dealers try to get their inventories into better shape.

The dealers blame the weather for slowing up in auto sales just as department stores blame it for a decline in their business.

**Gasoline Supplies Up**

Bad driving weather has sent inventories of gasoline to new record highs and brought sharp inroads into supplies of fuel oil.

Construction has suffered from the weather, according to reports, and so have car loadings. Recently some of the railroads got additional

piggy-back business because trucks couldn't negotiate the highways.

Some price reductions at retail have been ascribed to the weather as retailers try to get back lost sales by bargain promotions.

Even the money market

suffered from the recent storms with business loans down at a time when a seasonal rise was in order.

Not only did demand fall off because of weather but supply was cut in some instances. Farmers couldn't move their livestock to mar-

ket and this reduced offerings somewhat with a firming in prices noted.

Cold in Florida was reported to have cut supplies of vegetables there with resultant firmer prices.

What wasn't blamed on the weather was attributed to the

stock market decline when demand for any item fell off.

**Market Not Blamed**

Purchases of durable goods were said to have been cut by the steady decline in stock market levels although many business men denied the market had anything to do with their sales.

The stock market break which recently carried prices to new lows for more than a year is said to have made for caution among business men.

The sensitive point in this caution has been inventories where there has been a ten-

dency to go easy on heavy buildups.

Business men say they pay no attention to the stock market in plotting the course of their business, but they are doing more talking about the market currently than for some time.

**Prices Holding Steady**

Overall curtailment in business hasn't amounted to a great deal. And the experts point out that more of the dips can be attributed to adverse weather than to declining stock market prices.

It is noted, however, that prices have been holding steady in commodities or easing, and this situation is one being watched carefully at

the present time for a clue to the future of industry generally.

Bigger demand with more clement weather might restore the small declines that have come into prices, say the experts.

Anyhow, the stores are buying quantities of goods at wholesale in preparation for a big Easter volume.

## Research May Give Clue to Successful Skin, Organ Grafts

Los Angeles (Science Service)—Understanding the basic mechanism in the human body's rejection or acceptance of grafts of skin or vital organs from another is advanced by a report from Dr. Franklin Ashley and Earl McNall of the University of California, Los Angeles.

They have elaborated the role of ribonucleic acid (RNA), in tolerance to grafts from others. RNA is the nucleic acid which translates genetic information. Eventually this RNA role may be clinically exploited.

**Foreign Body**

When tissue of one subject is grafted to another, the recipient's system treats it as a foreign body. Somehow it senses substances in the graft tissue genetically different from its own. These substances are known as antigens because they cause the recipient to produce antibodies to fight the "invader." As a result the graft is "killed" by the antibodies and sloughs off.

The UCLA researchers have evidence that the donor RNA itself is not an antigen but serves as a template in the manufacture of donor proteins within the recipient, which are antigenic.

By injecting purified RNA from the skin, spleen or liver of one animal, researchers can cause an antigen-antibody

reaction in the recipient. This is apparently due to the recipient's reaction to foreign proteins manufactured by the injected RNA.

Furthermore they found that increased amounts of injected donor RNA resulted in an overwhelming of the antibody-producing mechanism (immune paralysis) so that it stops producing antibodies against the donor proteins.

**Successful Takes**

Thus these grafts may be accepted. Injection of increased amounts of purified RNA from tissues of a strain of black rats into a strain of white rats resulted in 40 per cent successful takes in skin grafts (back on white). Less than 10 per cent of grafts are accepted in untreated animals.

Does this mean that injection of purified RNA from tissues of a potential donor into a patient will cause the patient to permanently accept a skin graft or transplanted kidney from the donor? No, at least not in the immediate future.

This finding, however, may be a step in this direction, the investigators say. But much work needs to be done before the findings can be successfully translated into practical, clinical results.

Collaborating in these studies were Dr. N. R. Dutt, Eugene Garcia and Robert Sloan.

## Sex Determination Declared Ready for Laboratory Study

Honolulu (Science Service)—Sporadic sex reversal in the course of human development does exist and its sociologic and scientific aspects deserve critical evaluation, a zoologist reported here.

Controlled determination of sex in animal breeding and human reproduction has left the realm of mere speculation and become a "fascinating" project for laboratory investi-

gation, Dr. Emil Witschi of the State University of Iowa told the University of Hawaii Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi, national organization for the encouragement of scientific research.

**Means for Analysis**

Dr. Witschi said that animal experiments provide means for analysis of genetic and epigenetic determiners of normal sex development and of naturally occurring or deliberate modification.

(The theory of epigenesis holds that development starts from a structureless cell and consists in the successive formation and addition of new parts that do not pre-exist in the fertilized egg. It is opposed to the theory of pre-formation.)

Two classes of epigenetic factors must be considered, Dr. Witschi said. One consists of reactions issuing from the chromosomal genes, which direct embryonic differentiation by way of inductor systems. A second class affords the possibility of altering the course of development by either supporting or opposing certain elements of the sequences normally established by action of the first class. This second class of epigenetic factors may also be characterized as environmental or conditioning factors.

Hormones and other chemical effectors, temperature and specific metabolic conditions are some of the tools that have served in the experimental manipulation of sex differentiation, Dr. Witschi said.

## 175 Rockets Said Fired by Russia

Nice, France — (Science Service)—Russia launched 125 research rockets during the International Geophysical Year, plus 50 more in 1959, a report here indicates. Some of the rockets had payloads up to 4,850 pounds.

The launching of these rockets took place in the Soviet Union, in the Polar Zone and from a ship in the Southern Hemisphere and the Northern Pacific. Many indications of the constitution and composition of the upper atmosphere were reported obtained with the experiments.

According to Russian sources, the studies showed electron concentration varies with the time of day and season in the outer part of the ionosphere. This may be an important factor in radio reception, because the electrified layers reflect radio signals, thus making broadcasts possible over long distances.

The Russians also found that there are very high concentrations of electrons at least 200 miles above the earth.

Of the rockets, 158 were for studying weather. In some cases the luminosity of the sky and the distribution of ozone were studied. New data on temperatures and pressures in the stratosphere — the middle layer of atmosphere — were collected.

## MICKEY THE FAUCET

Los Angeles—UPI — Mickey Cohen's answers to questions Tuesday at the trial of Sam Locigno for the slaying of Jack (The Enforcer) Whalen were so long that the judge remarked:

"It's better than turning on a faucet."

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Section D 8 Pages

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