

# THE DAILY NEWS.

PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

Published Every Afternoon, Except Sunday, by Prince Rupert Daily News, Limited, Third Avenue  
H. F. PULLEN - - - Managing-Editor

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

City delivery, by mail or carrier, yearly period, paid in advance	5.00
For lesser periods, paid in advance, per month	50
By mail to all parts of Northern and Central British Columbia, paid in advance for yearly period	3.00
By mail to all other parts of British Columbia, the British Empire and United States, paid in advance, per year	\$6.00
By mail to all other countries, per year	9.00

## ADVERTISING RATES

Transient display advertising, per inch, per insertion	1.40
Classified advertising, per insertion, per word	.02
Local readers, per insertion, per line	25
Legal notices, each insertion, per agate line	15

Contract rates on application.

Editor and Reporters' Telephone 86

Advertising and Circulation Telephone 98

Member of Audit Bureau of Circulations

DAILY EDITION

Monday, July 27, 1931

## Heredity and Environment Combine to Create Traits In Man, Animals and Plants

(By R. A. Emerson, Professor of Plant Breeding, Cornell University)  
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ITHACA, N.Y., July 27:—I have a kind of corn which ordinarily has white ears, but if the husks are removed before the kernels are hardened in ripening the ears become red. If the husks are stripped off from only one side of the ear, the kernels thus exposed to the light become red and those kept in darkness remain white. The heredity of the whole ear is the same; and yet the kernels that ripened in one environment, sunlight, are red while those in another environment, darkness, are white.

I have another kind of corn that always produces red kernels whether exposed to the light or not. I have also a third kind that never has red kernels even when the developing ear is exposed. We cannot say that red kernels as such are inherited. What actually is inherited is the ability to develop red color in the presence of strong light, the ability to react with light to produce red and to react with darkness to produce white kernels.

I suspect that all peculiarities of plants, animals and man are in part a matter of environment and in part a matter of heredity. I do not think of these effects of heredity and of environment as being at all antagonistic.

### Effect on Race

Many questions grow out of this conception of the interaction of heredity and environment. What about changing one's heredity or at least the heredity of one's children by changing one's environment? Will training a race-horse properly so that he breaks a world's record make his colts better runners than they would have been had he not been trained at all? Will forcing a dairy cow by the feed and care to give the utmost quantity of milk of which she is capable make her progeny give more milk than they would have given had she been allowed to rustle for her living on a dry western range? Will training our children in music give out grand-children natural musicians?

Some have believed that these questions could be given an affirmative answer, but I know of no crucial evidence to support such answers. Most of the so-called evidence that has been presented is worthless. We cannot conduct controlled experiments with humans and even our domestic animals leave much to be desired in this respect.

Plants afford much better material for such tests. Wheat, for instance, is self-pollinated, and barring rare accidental cross-pollination the seedlings grown from a single wheat plant all have identically the same heredity. Such

## CROPS ON PRAIRIES IMPROVED

Southern Saskatchewan Suffers Worst of All Districts—Peace River Fine

WINNIPEG, July 27:—Exceedingly hot weather for the past few days has advanced the ripening of crops so that harvest will not be any later than in previous years. This warm wave following recent rains has also made rapid growth of previously backward grain with the result that the wheat sample in many districts will lack uniformity and will be lower in grade. Pastures have improved remarkably well, and on many fields in Southern Saskatchewan which were blown out this spring, a profuse growth of Russian thistle is now apparent, and the young succulent thistles are being used for pasture, according to the weekly crop report of the department of agriculture of the C. N. R.

In Manitoba, days have been warm with cool nights and a few scattered showers have made ideal conditions for the filling of grain. Straw is short and heads are small, and most wheat fields have passed the blossom stage. Late sown coarse grains promise a fairly good yield but the yields of early sown grains will only average somewhere between 50 and 60% of normal. Grasshoppers are very active along the Carman subdivision and control measures using poisoned bait are being employed. The Swan River Valley has experienced beneficial rains and a normal crop in this area is anticipated.

### Very Little Crop

Along all subdivisions in Southern Saskatchewan, weather has been hot, and persistent high winds have caused further damage to crops. Wheat is all headed out. Straw is short and unless more moisture is received, yields will be very light, and in some districts, very little grain will be threshed.

Grasshoppers are active along the Gravelbourg and Central Butte subdivisions. Along the Asquith, Dodsland, Touchwood, Yorkton and Tonkin subdivisions, grain has made rapid progress towards maturity, and cutting will start about August 15. Fields are very uneven and sheaves will have large butts of late growth crop. All subdivisions of Prince Albert division report a big improvement in crops since last week. Weather has been ideal and moisture over the entire division is sufficient to ensure normal and ripening.

### Heat in Alberta

Extreme hot weather was general over Alberta last week and crops have advanced rapidly. If heat persists further rain is necessary to ensure complete filling. Harvest will commence in Southern Alberta about August 10, but will be later in central and north central parts.

The Peace River country advises crops are beginning to turn and the prospects are still good and with no setbacks, harvest should commence about the second week of August.

### Livestock

Receipts of all classes of livestock on western stockyards were much in line with those of the previous week. The steady values recorded at the beginning of the week were not maintained, and grain fed and grass cattle reacted to lower price levels. The hog and sheep markets have been maintained at steady levels.

## Guide to Correspondents

The Daily News welcomes correspondence on live topics of the day or any other subject of public interest, but letters must be brief and to the point. The long-winded correspondent has no place in modern journalism.

Every letter must be signed by the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a matter of good faith and courtesy. All unsigned documents go to the waste paper basket. Letters of a caustic character must have the signature appended for publication.

Letters should be written on one side of the paper only. Correspondents must avoid personalities and the language should be such as would be allowed in the ordinary rules of debate.

## Women Took Part Orange Celebration

At One Time Event Was Left Wholly to Men But Times Have Changed

TORONTO, July 27:—On the subject of women's part in the Orange parades in Toronto on July 12 The Mail and Empire said: "Times have changed—even for the Glorious Twelfth—changed because women no longer slip out to see the procession, the more ardent wearing an orange lily. They laid wreaths on the cenotaph, they paraded, they gave addresses, they provided part of the life bands. All that could be said on Saturday was that no woman rode a white horse and no woman broke the ranks of the Kilts. They played a part in most every other sphere."

"With the women taking greater part, the whole home seemed to be brought into the celebration with all its aspects of carnival and stern conviction. In one of the trimmest bands, it was hard to distinguish the sailor-clad girls from the sailor-clad boys, except as one caught sight of the curls of long bobs under

blue helmets. In another, girl bandmen wore pleated blue skirts, but white shirts and blue caps like the men. Some lodge women paraded, some rode in cars. Altogether there were 5,000 of them."

Portland Canal men visiting the city over the week end were W. Broad and E. J. O'Brien of Stewart and David Deane of Anyox.

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