

AN engineer's mistake will cost the Pennsylvania railroad \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 to rectify, and has rendered useless half a mile of construction work, from the mouth of the tunnel under the palisades southwest to the Secaucus Meadows in New Jersey. At one point where the Pennsylvania crosses two railroads, an expensive massive bridge had been built, it was found the bridge was 75 feet out place as specified by the original plans, and this work will have to be changed.

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A PARTNERSHIP has been formed by Messrs. A. L. Weeks and Allan Keefer, to take over the business of Messrs. Machado & Weeks, of Ottawa. Mr. Keefer is the son of Mr. C. H. Keefer, of Ottawa, and, of course, is well known here. He has for some time been practising architecture with a well-known Boston firm. Mr. Weeks, who is a New Brunswicker, has in the two years during which he was associated with the late Mr. Machado in Ottawa, worked up an excellent practice, and with the assistance of Mr. Keefer, there is little doubt that the business will continue to grow steadily.

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A NEW building by-law is proposed by the council of Battleford, Sask. The new regulations will impose restrictions in the matter of the future erection of buildings in the central portion of the town and will permit only of the erection of first-class buildings conforming with the regulations of the Fire Underwriters' Association. It is gratifying to note that these rapidly growing towns of the West are showing a disposition to profit by the mistakes of our older eastern cities, in adopting building laws that permit the erection of structures that are proving a menace to the growth and development of their business centers.

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THE Protestant School Board of the city of Montreal has been found liable for damages as a result of the burning of the Hochelaga school last winter. J. F. Anderson, who lost his child of six years old, in the fire, brought a suit for damages and was awarded \$300. The jury at the trial found that the death of this child was due directly and entirely to the negligence displayed by the Protestant School Board in neglecting to equip the Hochelaga school building with fire escapes of any description, and also in not having provided adequate means for the escape of smoke. It is not unlikely that a number of other actions for damages brought by bereaved parents will follow. It is to be hoped that this jury's decision may act as a deterrent to the gross carelessness displayed in the past by the average School Board.

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IF all the skyscrapers in New York were piled one atop of the other a building of 6,553 storeys would rear itself toward high heaven. Compared to such a structure the Tower of Babel would look like a mushroom, says the New York World. The city building department has finished counting the lofty buildings in the city; 540 of them have been erected since 1890, when the Pulitzer building was the first of its class. Including the Metropolitan Life building, which is not finished, the census of high buildings is as follows: One of 48 storeys, one of 41; two of 26; three of 25; two of 23; four of 22; nine of 20; two of 19; nine of 18; two of 17; nineteen of 16; nineteen of 15; eighteen of 14; thirteen of 13; one hundred and nine of 12; one hundred and one of 11; one hundred and sixty-four of 10.

The discovery of the structural possibilities of steel has accomplished this. Modern fireproofing methods—protecting the steel with unburnable terra cotta, and using the same materials for floors and partitions and enclosing elevator shafts and stairways—made the skyscrapers safe.

ACCORDING to reports from Nottingham, recent acts of Parliament authorize the construction of some 200 additional miles of railway in the United Kingdom, involving an outlay exceeding \$50,000,000. The authorized constructions include railway extensions in the Midlands and other parts of the kingdom, and various dock improvements at railway termini. The chief item is a projected railway in Ireland over 100 miles long, terminating on the west coast, and forming a link in a future route between England and Canada by rail across Ireland and by a direct steamship line from Blacksod Bay.

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ACCORDING to a statement of Newyn Macartney, surveyor of the fabric of St. Paul's Cathedral before the Royal Institute of British Architects, this historic edifice is sinking. There are, according to Mr. Macartney, four main points of weakness in the cathedral. These are the dome—the dominating architectural feature of the metropolis—the south transept, the western towers and the portico. The dome, which is the centre of the great mass has sunk and is now severed from the surrounding masses. Each one of eight piers on which the dome is carried has sunk westernmost, one by more than six inches. The two towers are each out of perpendicular, the inclinations being sufficient to jeopardize the safety of the two wide arches of the portico, which itself has followed the direction of the towers.

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THE Board of Trade and Chambre de Commerce of Montreal are canvassing the proprietors in West, East and Centre wards to seek their opinion relative to asking the city to make arrangements for the installation of a supplementary water supply for fire purposes only, in the district mentioned. The proposition, as provided for by a clause inserted by the Legislature, is that if a majority of the proprietors agree, the city is empowered to float bonds or sell debentures to provide for the installation of a special water service for fire protection in the three wards. The proprietors are to be taxed for this amount, the taxation being spread over a period of forty years. As such a system will aid in securing a lessening of fire insurance rates in the congested district—which is now subject to an extremely high premium—it is altogether probable that the proprietors will express a willingness to accept the plan.

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THE Vancouver council will shortly consider a portion of the new building by-law upon which civic committees have been working during the past two years.

An interesting provision in the proposed code is that the limit as to height of buildings is placed at 100 feet save when special fire fighting appliances are part of the structure, in which case the building inspector is to use his judgment. All buildings over 70 feet in height except grain elevators and churches; all apartment houses over 55 feet in height and all institutional buildings over 50 feet in height, must be fireproof. Regarding churches the demand is made that when the edifice is planned to accommodate 1,200 people the portion including the main auditorium shall be fireproof.

It provides that no permit for the removal of buildings is contemplated when the same shall have been damaged by wear or tear, fire, etc., to the extent of 50 per cent. of its value.

The question of street permits is very closely guarded, the requirements being that the contractor shall construct a platform from four to six feet wide and at least eight feet high along the side walk occupied. It is also provided that street space shall not be used for the storage of materials except those intended for immediate use.

The provisions regarding the placing of fire escapes are very rigid, basing the number and size on the use to which the building is to be put as well as its height.