

# The Chronicle



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**CHARLESTON HURRICANE** THIS year the world seems to have had every possible kind of bad weather. Last winter was long drawn out and severe; the summer has brought excessive heat, drought, floods and earthquakes. Now comes the report of a destructive wind storm at Charleston and Savannah, killing five people and doing damage there to the extent of \$1,000,000. While most spectacular in South Carolina the storm was also destructive to life and property in Georgia, Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut.

**HIGH PRICES OF PROVISIONS IN FRANCE.** OF course women are logical, but a mere man does not always understand their logic. In the cities and towns of northern France, processions of women, some of them 2,000 strong, are protesting against the high prices of provisions, which must mean the scarcity of provisions, by marching around destroying farms, dairies and vegetable gardens. It is a queer method of bringing down prices.

**VANCOUVER.** MAYOR Taylor of Vancouver was in Montreal on Monday and left for New York on Tuesday morning. He gives a glowing account of the present condition and prospects of Vancouver. Labor troubles have all been settled, and business generally is booming, despite recent reports in the east to the contrary. The city is at present undertaking the construction of a new sewage system, which is in the hands of their new engineer, Mr. Fellowes, formerly of Westmount. Mr. Fellowes has given entire satisfaction since his advent to the coast. Claiming a population for Vancouver at the present time of 115,000 as against its 26,000 of ten years ago, Mr. Taylor does not expect the census returns to show more than ninety thousand inhabitants, as he says the enumeration was very badly done.

**BRITISH RAILWAYS AND LABOUR UNIONS.** THE railway labour situation is again causing anxiety in England and has brought about a slump in railway shares. It is said that the employes of the Great Eastern have taken alarm at the evidence now being laid before the Royal Commission. Mr. White, Secretary of the Midland Railway Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, suggested as a substitute for the present method of conciliation the appointment of a central board of arbitration upon which the nineteen principal railways and their employes would be represented. He declared that the men would not accept any machinery for settling disputes unless the unions were represented.

**LABOUR TROUBLES ON THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL.** A TIME when nearly all the railways of the western States are laying off men by thousands and when business depression is general in their territory seems ill-chosen for the employes of the Illinois Central to be threatening to strike. The Illinois Central is certainly one of the few roads on which business has been satisfactory and has not laid off any of its hands. Eight thousand of the men insist that the Company shall only treat with its employes through the unions; but reports to the Bureau of Railway Economics indicate that there are 136,000 fewer men on the pay rolls of the railways now than at this time last year, meaning a saving in wages of about \$94,000,000. If the worst comes to the worst, the Illinois Central will probably find it easy to fill the places of the strikers.

**SKY-SCRAPERS.** THE special committee appointed by the Montreal City Council to revise the Building by-laws will report adversely to allowing any buildings in Montreal higher than ten stories, or more than 130 feet high. The chairman, Alderman Clement, says: "We had considerable discussion on that question. In New York they allow buildings of thirty and forty storeys to be built. Land is very dear there, and this, perhaps, justifies what they are doing. But we considered these conditions did not apply to Montreal. We have a greater building area than they have, and, while our land prices are expensive in certain streets, we are of the opinion that we should not allow buildings higher than ten storeys or not more than 130 feet."

The decision is a wise one. Sky-scrappers are not an ornament to any city and they add greatly to the fire risk. The world is not ready yet for aeroplane fire brigades. Montreal is a beautiful city and it would be a thousand pities to have it disfigured with unsightly sky-scrappers. The available building area in Montreal and its surroundings make these very high buildings unnecessary.