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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A CONFERENCE ON TROPICAL CYCLONES

The Government of Cuba has submitted to the governments of all countries located or having possessions in and about the Caribbean Sea tentative plans for holding at Havana next January an international conference to discuss the subject of tropical cyclones and means of protection against them. These storms take heavy toll each year of life and property in the West India region and Cuba has been repeatedly ravaged by them; the latest great disaster having been on October 20, 1926, when immense damage was done in the Province of Havana. The southeastern shores of the United States are notoriously afflicted by such storms, as exemplified in the Florida disasters of 1926 and 1928. Lastly, all maritime nations are more or less affected by the cyclones of this region, as they constitute a grave danger to vessels using the Panama Canal.

The project as originally set forth contemplates a meeting of meteorologists representing the different countries concerned and the creation of a permanent international body to combat hurricanes. Probably, however, it will be found advisable to enlarge the scope of the conference by including, in addition to meteorologists, representatives of the hydrographic services, the national Red Cross organizations, and various other departments of human activity, as the subject of tropical hurricanes is a many-sided one.

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