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Proposed Change in Standard Policy. A movement is afoot amongst Massachusetts underwriters to have the standard form of fire insurance policy amended by striking out the words, "the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged." This clause, as "The Insurance Press" points out, is a receipt for the premium, but it often occurs that the premium is not really paid by the policyholder or his broker when the policy is delivered. Hence have arisen trouble and loss all round.

"Under present conditions it is held that an agent cannot cancel the policy for non-payment of premium by a written notice. In case a company orders a cancellation of the policy and the insured declines to return it, it is necessary for the agent to tender the return premium in cash to avoid personal liability for loss, even though the insured has not paid the premium at all. It is also claimed that the Massachusetts courts have decided that the holder of a standard policy possesses a receipt for the premium, and even though the policyholder should admit that he has not paid the premium, a suit to recover cannot be maintained if the policyholder should see fit to resist the collection."

The agents are regarded as more interested in the proposed amendment than the companies, as the latter can hold their representatives responsible for any loss which may occur through non-collection of the premium. The agents, however, have not infrequently suffered loss as a result of the delivery of the policy without having first secured the premium. They are anxious to protect themselves, at the same time they wish to make it possible to deliver the policy without invariably collecting the premium in cash. This they believe they can do by the amendment suggested. As some of the company managers are in sympathy with the movement, they hope the agents will suc-

ceed in securing the amendment. There is fear, however, that any attempt to amend the standard policy time will lead to a general overhauling of the contract which will result in destroying its present advantageous features, and it is suggested that instead of securing an amendment at the present session of the legislature, the standard form be referred to the insurance commissioner for revision and report at the next session of the general court.

A Convoy of War Ships. Spectacular displays of unprecedented grandeur are a feature of the day. The voyage of the Duke of Cornwall to Australia will take a place in the front rank of these impressive occurrences. From England to Gibraltar the Prince will be escorted by the Channel fleet, which is a force equal to any foreign navy. From Gibraltar to Malta the convoy will comprise half the Mediterranean fleet of first-class warships and cruisers; from Malta this honour will be transferred to the other section of that fleet, by whom the Prince will be accompanied to Port Said on the Suez Canal. Through that channel another portion of England's navy will guard the Royal party. On emerging from the canal the vessels of the visitors to Australia will be met by the squadron of British warships which keep watch and ward in East Indian waters. At some unnamed point near New Guinea, another squadron will take the duty of acting as convoy until Sydney is reached. All that distance, half way around the globe, the Heir Apparent will be accompanied by representatives of the unrivalled naval power of Great Britain. Such a spectacle is not a mere boastful show, it is such a display of strength as tends to the maintenance of peace, and aids materially in consolidating the Empire by manifesting to each of its sections the power by which it is defended.