

THE IMPERIAL CHANCELLOR of Germany has issued a permit to the Western Assurance Company, of Toronto, Canada, to transact marine insurance business in the German Empire.

INSURANCE AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.—A Swedish insurance company has just put forward a new scheme by which the insurer is furnished with the resources necessary to pay for a sojourn in a tuberculosis sanatorium. It writes ordinary life insurance at the minimum and after medical examination and then guarantees the insured against the further risk of tuberculosis for the payment of additional premiums varying from five to ten or according to the age of the insured. The insurance must be in effect for two years before the tuberculosis clause becomes valid.

SURETY UNDERWRITERS doing business in Massachusetts are agitated by a decision of the State Insurance Commissioner anent the recently enacted law requiring a deposit of \$100,000 by Surety companies operating in that State. The Commissioner maintains that the terms of the deposits made in other States being general do not specifically cover the question of the protection of policyholders in the United States, and therefore do not fulfil the requirements of the Massachusetts law. If this position is maintained the Surety companies may be required to make an additional deposit of \$100,000 in Massachusetts.

THE ORGANIZATION has just been completed in Chicago of the Western Insurance Bureau, an association of non-union companies. Thirty companies have joined the association at its outset and as several others have since made application for membership and many other applications are known to be pending, it is expected that the membership within a short time will include fifty companies. The chief object of the new organisation is to assist in the movement to reduce expenses in conformity with the reduction desired by the Insurance Commissioners and the public. It is hoped that through a modification of present tax laws and a general curtailment of expenses and by encouraging improved construction and inspection of risks, a lower cost of insurance may ultimately be secured.

FIRE UNDERWRITERS AND SAN FRANCISCO.—Notice has been served on the city government of San Francisco that unless some arrangement is made with the Spring Valley Water Company whereby an increased supply of water is brought into San Francisco drastic action will be taken by the insurance companies, and it is anticipated that higher rates may be asked. The underwriters say they were led to take this action by their investigations following the reduction of the pressure in the water mains in the district supplied from Lake Honda. This brought out the fact that in seasons of hot weather the consumption of water in the city exceeded the supply which it was possible to bring to city reservoirs through the existing pipes by several million gallons daily.

BRITISH INSURANCE COMPANIES AND THE INCOME TAX.—The Royal Insurance Company, whose dividend for some years past has been at the rate of £1 per £1 10s. share is now increasing its dividend to 23s. per share. The new dividend, however, will be paid subject to the deduction of income tax which hitherto the company has always paid. In the past it has been the general practice of the

British insurance companies and banks to pay their dividends free of income tax, but in view of the height which the income tax has now reached and the possibility that it will go even higher, several well-known undertakings, both in the insurance and banking worlds are known to be considering the question of making their dividends payable subject to the deduction of income tax. In either case, of course, the shareholder pays the tax, but when he pays it himself he realises more than he would if the company continued to pay it on his behalf the seriousness of the income tax burden.

NORWICH UNION FIRE.—The fire account of this company for the year ending 31st December, 1909, shows that after deduction of reinsurances the net premiums amounted to \$5,383,180 and the net losses paid and outstanding to \$2,947,720. After charging agents' commission and all expenses of management and carrying \$512,020 to profit and loss, the balance in this account is \$4,584,170. The accident account gives the results of two years trading, the business of the Norwich & London having been transferred to the Norwich Union as from January 1st, 1908. The net premiums for the period were \$3,226,045 and the claims paid and outstanding \$2,092,820. After charging agents' commission and all expenses of management and carrying \$122,095 to profit and loss, the balance in this account is \$607,535. A dividend of \$6 per share upon the \$15 shares is again paid, while the assets at the close of 1909 were \$10,297,530 comparing with \$8,397,040 at the close of 1908.

BI-CENTENARY OF THE SUN FIRE OFFICE.—The Sun Fire Office has reached its bi-centenary this year. Having been originated in the year 1710 in the reign of Queen Anne, the Sun Fire completed on 7th April last its two hundred years of corporate existence and is at the present time the oldest surviving insurance institution in Great Britain—and the world. At its inception the Sun Fire was faced by three competitors, one of which, the Hand-in-Hand, formed in 1696 lasted right away until 1905 when it was absorbed by the Commercial Union. The bi-centenary was celebrated by a banquet held at the Hotel Cecil, in London, a few days ago, subsequent to the annual meeting, when Mr. F. H. Norman, the chairman of the Sun Fire, presided over a large and distinguished audience, among the three hundred guests being many well-known representatives of insurance companies. The office, it was recalled at this gathering, was started without any capital being formed on the basis of "mutual confidence and no cash." At the present time the fire premiums amount to \$7,250,000, the fire reserves to \$10,450,000 and the total assets to over \$15,000,000. For the celebration of the bi-centenary an appropriation of \$715,000 has been made. Out of this the holders of the 10s. shares will receive a special bonus of 10s. per share, in addition to their ordinary dividend of 10s. per share, and a bonus will be given to the office staff. The Sun entered the Canadian field in 1892 and last year had a Canadian premium income of \$371,141, with losses of \$215,193, while its aggregate Canadian premiums up to the end of 1909 were \$4,141,606 and losses \$2,614,240. Insurance men all over the world will wish the Sun continued success as it starts upon its third century.