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Marine Underwriters not to be Amphibious. Creatures that can live equally well on land or in water, boats that run over land tracks, and marine soldiers, who are ready for service aboard or ashore, we all know of. A line it seems must be drawn somewhere, and the New York State Superintendent of Insurance, Mr. Louis F. Payn, has drawn it at marine underwriters, whose sphere he is determined to confine to the water. Whether he will confine crocodiles and other amphibious creatures to an aqueous element is not stated. A complaint has been filed with the Insurance Department, Albany, by the President of the American Express Company, who alleges that certain of the foreign marine insurance corporations transacting business in New York State are issuing policies covering property, while in transportation on land he alleges that this form of insurance is in violation of the Insurance law, which limits the foreign marine companies to insure against risks of carriage by water. President Fargo said that if the foreign marine corporations are allowed to undertake insurance of property in transportation on land it will work great injustice to the express companies, which have organized an extensive service to safely transact their business. The express companies seem not very particular about doing business outside their proper function as carriers of merchandise, as they not only insure property in transportation on land, but they carry on a business in the issuance of money drafts, which is decidedly not Express business, but banking. The complaint then of the Express companies that the insurance of property in transportation on land by marine underwriters will work great injustice to Express companies seems inconsistent on their part, as, by themselves effecting such insurance, and by doing banking business, they are doing injustice to other interests. In a legal sense, however, this complaint is well founded. "After a thorough investigation of the question, Superintendent Payn to-day advised the managers in the United States of the companies complained of that he will refuse to issue to their corporations renewal certificates of authority required by Section 32 of the

Insurance law for the coming year unless satisfactory evidence is furnished him that the companies have ceased the kind of business complained of and have cancelled all policies insuring such hazards. Superintendent Payn has required also that there shall be filed with the Insurance Department a resolution adopted at the home offices that the companies could hereafter only insure in this State and in the United States against the hazards of marine insurance as clearly set forth in the Insurance law." It is often convenient and economical for one policy to cover goods in transit between two points, one part of the transport being by land and another by water. Marine underwriters will not be greatly distressed by being confined to water risks, but we doubt its being for the general convenience of shippers.

The U. S. prohibits Pelagic Sealing. Considerable light is thrown upon the urgent way in which Canada was pressed to abandon pelagic sealing by the passage of the law prohibiting this industry by American sealers. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Louis Davies were in Washington; they were asked to take this step instantly; their doing so was made a primary condition of the States' authorities entering upon a consideration of reciprocity. The reason is clear for such haste. The Act just passed which has received the President's signature prohibits the killing of seals by American citizens, except as they may be taken on the Pribyloff Islands by the North American Commercial Company. It also prohibits the importation of seal skins into the United States, whether "raw, dressed, dyed or manufactured." The fable reads that a fox whose tail had been cut off in a trap tried to induce other foxes to amputate their tails. Canada declined to hurt herself as suggested. The new Act is practically a measure designed to give a monopoly of the seal supply to an American company which controls the herd of seals on the Pribyloff Islands. Had Canada been weak enough she would have augmented the value of this monopoly by stopping the pelagic sealing carried on by Canadians. The Act is regarded in Great Britain as a mere bluff, or