

## TO STOP MARINE GAMBLING.

### Text of New British Bill—Wise Discrimination is Shown.

Marine insurance circles have awaited with keen interest the text of Mr. Winston Churchill's bill to prohibit gambling on loss by maritime perils. This has now been issued and the measure will be formally known as the Marine Insurance (Gambling Policies) Bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

1.—(1) If—(a) Any person effects a contract of marine insurance without having any bona fide interest, direct or indirect, either in the safe arrival of the ship in relation to which the contract is made or in the safety or preservation of the subject-matter insured, or a bona fide expectation of such an interest; or (b) any person in the employment of the owner of a ship, not being a part owner of the ship, effects a contract of marine insurance in relation to the ship, and the contract is made "interest or no interest," or "without further proof of interest than the policy itself," or "without benefit of salvage to the insurer," or subject to any other like term, the contract shall be deemed to be a contract by way of gambling on loss by maritime perils, and the person effecting it shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable, on summary conviction, to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds, and in either case to forfeit any money he may receive under the contract.

(2) Any broker through whom, and any insurer with whom, any such contract is effected shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to the like penalties if he acted knowing that the contract was by way of gambling on loss by maritime perils within the meaning of this Act.

(3) Proceedings under this act shall not be instituted without the consent of the Attorney-General.

(4) Proceedings shall not be instituted under this Act against a person (other than a person in the employment of the owner of the ship in relation to which the contract was made) alleged to have effected a contract by way of gambling on loss by maritime perils until an opportunity has been afforded him of showing that the contract was not such a contract as aforesaid, and any information given by that person for that purpose shall not be admissible in evidence against him in any prosecution under this Act.

(5) If proceedings under this Act are taken against any person (other than a person in the employment of the owner of the ship in relation to which the contract was made) for effecting such a contract, and the contract was made "interest or no interest," or "without further proof of interest than the policy itself," or "without benefit of salvage to the insurer," or subject to any other like term, the contract shall be deemed to be a contract by way of gambling on loss by maritime perils unless the contrary is proved.

(6) Any person aggrieved by an order or decision of a court of summary jurisdiction under this Act may appeal to quarter sessions.

(7) For the purposes of this Act the expression "owner" includes charterer.

(8) Sub-sections (3) and (6) of this section shall not apply to Scotland.

It will be noted that no attempt is made to make a clean sweep of speculative P.P.I. policies. The section of the business which is a danger to the public interest will be eliminated. The total abolition of the P.P.I. clause would naturally have been drastic and unfair legislation.

## FIRE AND MARINE NOTES.

The Crown Fire Insurance Company, of Toronto, has been authorized to carry on business in Alberta.

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The Anchor Fire & Marine Insurance Company, Limited, of Edmonton, has been registered in Saskatchewan.

Mr. McLean Stinson, of the Rimouski Fire Insurance Company has sailed for Europe, and will be away six weeks.

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The Occidental Fire Insurance Company has received a license to transact business throughout Canada. The head office is Wawanesa, Man.

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The Middlewest Fire Insurance Company has been licensed to carry on business in Manitoba. R. A. Shadrick, Winnipeg, has been appointed chief agent in the Province.

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A prairie fire swept a district of 1,000 miles in extent fifty miles east of Swift Current, in Saskatchewan. Several farm houses were destroyed and several deaths occurred as a result.

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The Germania Mutual Fire Insurance Company is seeking incorporation in Saskatchewan, with head office in Langenburg. The first general meeting was held in Langenburg on May 1st.

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The German Mutual Fire Insurance Company is seeking incorporation in Alberta, with head office in Wetaskiwin. The first general meeting of the company will be held in Wetaskiwin on May 20th.

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The Gamewell auxiliary system of electric fire alarm is now being installed in all the departments of the I.C.R., in St. John, by the Vaughan Electric Company, Limited. The system includes 53 alarm boxes.

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The thief who stole the diamonds valued at \$2,125 on April 23rd from Mr. Thomas A. Grothie's store, Montreal, has not been captured, and the Fidelity and Casualty Company have forwarded a cheque for \$1,000, the extent of the insurance on the stolen goods.

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It is stated that the Vancouver Island Underwriters' Association have decided to bring about the reduction in fire insurance rates of Victoria providing that the Council adopt the recommendations of the new chief for an increase in brigade and the equipment, the cost of which will be \$17,775.

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The Smith-Fess Insurance Agency of Winnipeg have relinquished several agencies, and secured the agency of the American Central Insurance Company, of St. Louis, with a capital of \$5,000,000. The Smith-Fess Agency have applied for admission to the Board of Fire Underwriters.

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The Commercial Union Fire Insurance Company, of New York, has been authorized to carry on business in British Columbia. The company's capital is \$200,000, divided into 2,000 shares of \$100 each. The head office for British Columbia is at Vancouver, with A. T. Von Etlinger as attorney.

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An interesting story comes from Galt and is shown in the official records of the Gore District Insurance Company of that town. Messrs. A. H. Lofft & Company, dry goods, St. Mary's, had a loss by fire, for which the adjusters allowed \$6,250. At their next stock-taking the firm became convinced they really had not lost more than \$3,750. Having confirmed this by a second stock-taking they immediately returned the fire insurance companies \$2,500, overpaid by them, the share of the Gore being \$289.43.

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The mutual fire insurance companies of Quebec Province are to be investigated, each in its turn, by the inspector of insurance. A rigid inquiry is now being conducted into the affairs of the Canada Mutual Fire Insurance Company. This investigation was brought about by the action of the Canada Company in making an extra assessment on its mutual members of 40 per cent. of their deposit notes, ostensibly for the purpose of re-insuring its risks on the cash premium system, thus depleting the resources of the mutual branch for the sole benefit of those insured on the cash premium system.