

the yield of over 5½ per cent. is substantial it is not unlikely that the issue will be subscribed. The principal and interest are guaranteed by the Lake Superior Corporation, and the proceeds will be used partly to pay for \$3,000,000 bonds of the Lake Superior Corporation which have been cancelled.

Dormant Bank Balances.

The report of the Canadian Minister of Finance on dormant bank balances has been quoted here in connection with an agitation which is being fostered by Mr. Horatio Bottomley in the House of Commons for the appointment of a Committee of the House to inquire into the subject and report upon a Bill to compel bankers to make periodical returns of all dormant balances and unclaimed securities in their hands. Mr. Bottomley says, "If this were done the result would be a great surprise to the country, and would be a perfect godsend to the Exchequer." Mr. Bottomley is also demanding that all foreign bonds should be taxed and thus provide twenty million pounds sterling for the Exchequer. It is unlikely that the member for Hackney will obtain either demand.

Important Shipping Developments.

Sir John Ellerman, whose vessels are well-known in the Indian and Eastern trades, has made an offer to purchase a certain number of £5 ordinary shares in Shaw, Savill & Albion Company, Limited, whose vessels run by the Cape of Good Hope route to Australia and New Zealand, at a minimum of £15 per share, with an additional 5s. per share if the holders of over 15,000 shares agree to sell. The proposal is, I understand, regarded very favourably by the directors of the Shaw, Savill & Albion Company, and will probably be carried through. In the spring there were very active dealings in the company's shares and it was reported that the White Star line were the operators. It now appears, however, that Sir John Ellerman was responsible for the purchases. Rumour is also very busy just now with other lines, and we may expect some important shipping amalgamations in the near future.

Points from the New Insurance Act.

Yesterday the new Insurance Act came into operation. The Act is really the outcome of the agitation which followed the disclosures regarding certain American companies some years ago. A Select Committee of the House of Lords was appointed in 1906 to consider what steps should be taken to provide for the security of British policyholders in foreign companies transacting business in the United Kingdom, and the recommendations of that committee form the basis of the new Act. The first important provision in the new Act is that all companies doing business in this country whether native or foreign, shall be required to deposit £20,000 with the Government. In the revenue account the items in respect to claims, surrenders, annuities, bonuses and commissions are to be given separately and stated for within and outside the United Kingdom. Companies are also required to state the number of policies, total sums assured, amount received by way of single premiums, and the amount of the yearly annual premium income, in each case also

separately for within and outside the United Kingdom. Companies formed to carry on bond investment business after the passing of the Act are also required to deposit £20,000, returnable to them under certain conditions.

The new Act is likely to do a good deal of good for the sounder insurance companies. There have of late years been too many companies entering the field of life insurance who have been advertising boldly such lines as:—

Authorized capital, £2,000,000. Subscribed capital, £100,000.

In some cases the size of the type of the amount authorized is double that of the amount subscribed. The obvious intention is to mislead the ignorant, since an authorized capital of two millions is not worth twopence.

Gresham Fire and Accident Insurance Society.

The above society has just been registered. It is, of course, an off-shoot of the well-known Gresham life office, and is formed to carry on all kinds of insurance business except life assurance. The chairman will be Alderman C. A. Hanson. Mr. Alex. Lawson, who is at present assistant general manager of the parent company, will become manager and secretary of that company, and Mr. James H. Scott will be general manager and principal officer of both the life company and new fire company.

LONDONER.

London, July 2, 1910.

From Western Fields.

Federal Premier at Winnipeg—Eastern Bank Manager on West's Progress—Fire Risks at Prince Rupert.

There is little that is new to record of the crops. To quote Mr. L. P. Strong, manager of the Alberta-Pacific Elevator Company, which owns and controls numerous elevators on the prairies, "until the weather conditions of the next month prove themselves, it is too early to attempt any definite prognostication of the yield per acre." The recent rains have done the crops a great deal of good, and although in some districts considerable damage has been done by excessive heat, speaking broadly, there is a feeling of confidence prevalent.

Mr. Strong believes that the largely increased acreage under crop in Alberta this year will more than make up any falling off in the yield per acre, and he has expressed the opinion also that more Alberta wheat than ever will be exported through Vancouver to Mexico next winter.

"The consumption of flour in Mexico he says is rapidly increasing; in fact, it is increasing much faster than the general run of people in that country realize. At present the high duty against our wheat is in effect, but the wheat crops of Mexico this year will not be large and there will be a large demand for Alberta wheat when the tariff is lowered. Owing to the decreased yield of wheat in the Eastern and middle sections of the states, with consequent decrease in the amount available for export, I anticipate there will be a greater call than ever for Alberta wheat in Mexico."