

BILL TO CHECK THEFTS OF AUTOMOBILES.

A bill which recently passed the legislature of New York requiring the issuing of registration certificates by the Secretary of State's Office, and this identification license must be shown when the car is sold and transferred to the new owner. The new bill further makes it a felony for any person to offer a car for sale without producing the original certificate of ownership, and makes the purchaser equally liable for this omission.

A fine of not more than \$2,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or both fine and imprisonment may be imposed.

This is really a practical plan and puts teeth into the law so that the man who steals a car will have difficulty in disposing of it, while the man who formerly was willing to buy a good second-hand car cheap—and not ask any questions—will think twice before making himself liable for a prison term and fine.

Additional revenue for the State will also be collected in this way for the fee of \$2 for an original certificate of ownership and \$1 for transfers, will, it is estimated, enrich the State Treasury by \$1,250,000 yearly. Duplicate certificates can be procured by the automobile owner by paying a fee of a dollar if his original certificate is lost. In that case he must make affidavit showing this fact.

The recovery of cars will be much simplified by the new plan for the police authorities and private automobile detective agencies will have many more clues to work on in case of loss.

The camouflaging of cars will not be so easy and as one underwriter expressed it: "The market for stolen cars will be killed."

From the standpoint of the insured he would possess a state certificate of ownership—which he has not at present and in case of loss the recovery of his car should be less difficult.

It has for years been a simple matter to sell stolen cars at a cheap price, because there were always plenty of people who were willing to profit by a bargain and not be too inquisitive as to whether the seller legally owned the car or not. This will be almost impossible under the new provisions of the law.

Steps have been taken to have similar legislation introduced in other states.

The thefts of automobiles continue in spite of every precaution taken by owners, and the vigilance of the police.

THE BRITISH CANADIAN INSURANCE COMPANY.

The British Canadian Insurance Company with Head Office 97 St. James street, Montreal, was incorporated by letters patent in May, 1917, and commenced operations in June, 1918, under the management of Mr. J. S. Picard, Montreal. The directors of the Company are:—Mr. F. H. Daig-

eault, M.D., Acton Vale; Mr. J. E. Phaneuf, St. Hughes; Mr. J. O. Ledoux, M.D., Sherbrooke; Mr. T. A. St. Germain, St. Hyacinthe; Mr. A. Amyot, St. Hyacinthe, and Mr. J. S. Picard, Montreal.

The high-toned title of this institution is a most pretentious one, in keeping with the numerous kinds of insurance business in which it operates, on a paid-up capital of \$50,260. Under the heading business transacted we find on the company's literature, Employers' Liability, Public, General, Teams, Elevators, Automobile, Fire, Theft, Explosion, Transportation, Property damage, Collision, Injury to persons, Personal Accident, Sickness, and Plate Glass.

If the company is lucky, their ambitious aspirations will be rewarded. There is, however, a greater element of risk in casualty insurance than is generally conceded, and more especially does this apply to employers' liability insurance, in the operation of which very extensive experience is important, together with very strong financial backing. The company is non-tariff and issues special rates. It is to be hoped in its own interest, that the latter will at least be high enough to pay losses and expenses, and continue after payment of expenses to provide the necessary reserve for unearned premiums.

The Chronicle does not wish to discourage or throw cold water on this enterprise, as it may be one of the very few Canadian casualty companies to succeed, but a substantial increase in its paid up capital would be advisable before assuming a large liability. Equitable rates will also be a most important factor in its success.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ASSURANCE CORPORATION TO ABSORB MERCHANTS MARINE INSURANCE CO.

It is announced this week that the Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation of London, England, is absorbing the Merchants Marine Insurance Company the latter retaining its separate identity. The Merchants Marine was established in 1871.

SHAW & BEGG, TORONTO, REMOVE TO LARGER OFFICES.

The firm of Shaw & Begg, general fire insurance, Toronto, removed to more commodious offices at Nos. 82-88 King St. East, Toronto, last week.

In addition to being Toronto general agents for several sound fire companies, and provincial agents for others, Messrs. Shaw & Begg are also Canadian managers of the Stuyvesant Insurance Company of New York. The firm of Shaw & Begg, Toronto, was established 34 years ago, they have a high standing, and valuable connections.