REGULATING UNDERWRITERS' AGENCIES.

The Manitoba insurance act is to be amended by the addition of regulations regarding underwriters' agencies. The province of Saskatchewan has already dealt with this matter. Proposed additions to the Manitoba Act read as follows:—

(19*a*) No company registered or licensed under this Act shall carry on any of its business or issue any policies of insurance, through any underwriters' agency, company or corporation, or guarantee any policy of any underwriters' agency, company or corporation, without first obtaining a permit from the superintendent of insurance, and paying the required fees, authorizing it to do so.

(19*b*) No company registered or licensed under this Act shall issue or cause to be issued to any underwriters' agency, company or corporation any policy other than one bearing only the incorporated name of the registered or licensed company, which policy shall be in the form in general use by the registered or licensed company in the Province of Manitoba.

(19*c*) Whenever a company registered or licensed under this Act applies for a permit, in accordance with this Act, the company shall file with the superintendent of insurance a power of attorney to and appointment of a chief or resident agent in Manitoba for such underwriters' agency, company or corporation.

(19*d*) Whenever a company which is registered or licensed under this Act carries on any of the business through or by an underwriters' agency, company or corporation, it shall pay to the Provincial Treasurer of Manitoba, for the aforesaid permit, an annual fee of one hundred dollars which annual fee shall fall due and be payable on the first day of January in each year.

(19*e*) Any company registered or licensed under this Act, which carries on any of its business or issues any policies of insurance through an underwriters' agency, company or corporation under permit, shall, in addition to the information required to be given in the annual statement rendered by the said company, file therewith a return of the business done by the said underwriters' agency, company or corporation in the form prescribed by the Provincial Treasurer of Manitoba.

2. Section 2 of said Act is hereby amended by adding thereto the following paragraph:—

(*u*) "underwriters' agency, company or corporation" means any individual, partnership, company or association which issues policies of insurance for a principal or guaranteeing or managing insurance company.

3. Wherever the expressions "inspector of insurance" and "inspector" are used in said Act they shall be replaced by the respective expressions "superintendent of insurance" and "superintendent."

4. This Act shall come into force on the day it is assented to.

The following delegates have been appointed by their respective associations to represent them in the National Council of the World's Insurance Congress to be held at San Francisco in 1915:—Col. W. C. Macdonald, by the Actuarial Society of America; Mr. T. B. Macaulay, by the Canadian Life Officers' Association, and Mr. John A. Tory, by the Life Underwriters' Association of Canada.

ONTARIO'S COMPENSATION BILL

INTRODUCED IN PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE—COLLECTIVE ASSURANCE UNDER STATE MANAGEMENT--FEW CHANGES FROM SIR WILLIAM MEREDITH'S DRAFT.

Hon. I. B. Lucas introduced in the Ontario legislature on Tuesday, the new provincial workmen's compensation bill, which has been drafted as a result of the prolonged investigation of the subject made by Sir William Meredith. While there are a number of changes which affect the administration of the Act, the scheme to be adopted is still one of collective assurance under State management. There is the provision for a governing board of three.

CHANGES FROM THE DRAFT.

Some of the important changes are: Adopted children are brought within the family provision. Works carried on by municipal bodies and public utility corporations are brought within the scope of the Act. A workman engaged by an employer not resident in the Province will have three months to give notice whether he will claim compensation under the Ontario law or that of the country where his employer is located. The maximum of earning capacity that will be affected by the Act is $2,000. Agreements by workmen fixing the amount of compensation shall not be binding unless approved by the board, except where the disability is under four weeks' duration.

Where the workman injured is under twenty-one years of age the board may invest any lump sum payment as it considers advisable for the interests of the workman. If the sum paid by employers who are individually liable is more than necessary to satisfy the amount of compensation awarded, the balance is to be returned.

The board may extend the time of compensation where parents are the dependents of the workman after the workman has attained the age of twenty-one.

In cases of permanent disability the workman is entitled to receive compensation up to fifty-five percent. of his average weekly earnings for the next preceding year, to the extent of the injury, whether total or only partial. The same rule applies in cases of temporary disability.

PROVINCE GIVES $100,000 ANNUALLY.

A grant of $100,000 annually is to be provided out of Provincial funds. The decision of the board in all cases is to be final. Complete jurisdiction is given to the board in all matters of classification. There are extended provisions with regard to the maintenance of the reserve fund to meet all claims for compensation, and where this fund is not immediately sufficient an advance may be made out of consolidated revenue fund. Funds may otherwise be provided by a special assessment on the various industries.

Three months before the new Act comes into force, which is to be by proclamation, a provisional assessment is to be made, which shall constitute a special reserve fund to be maintained at all times. Statements of pay rolls and estimates of expenditure by employers must be furnished to the board. Subcontractors are to be liable along with main contractors, but there shall be no double liability claimed. The assumption of risk by the workman does not disqualify him from claiming compensation. Common law right of recovery is abolished, and contributory negligence may be taken into consideration only in according the amount of compensation to be paid.