

GOV. CUTLER ON INSURANCE TRUST.

**Makes Reply to Letter Received
From Manager of Newspaper
Enterprise Association.**

TAKES A CONSERVATIVE VIEW.

**Believes Great State of New York
Is Able to Offer Remedial
Legislation.**

Does Not Agree With Mr. Hopkins
That Criminal Practices Have
Been Engaged In.

Gov. Cutler has received a communication from A. W. Hopkins, of Cleveland, Ohio, manager of the Newspaper Enterprise association, in which he is asked to give his opinion in regard to legislation to control the insurance trust and to do all he can to aid such legislation. The letter refers to the

legislation. The letter refers to the developments in the insurance investigation now being carried on in New York and to the practise of the insurance companies of contributing to campaign funds as a "criminal and un-American practice." Following is the letter from Mr. Hopkins and also the reply of Gov. Cutler:

"Recent revelations in connection with the Insurance Trust show conclusively that it is the practise and policy of great corporations to maintain and expend a "defense fund" for the purpose of influencing legislation. Bribers only exist where men can be found to accept bribes.

"I am writing to you as the representative of over 300 prominent newspapers, and ask you:

"Will you refer to this criminal and un-American practise in your next message?

"What is your opinion on this subject?"

subject and how do you think the
graffiti can best be detected and punished?
"Are you of the opinion that the fed-
eral government should control life
insurance?"
"I ask you for an early reply, as it
publication may influence legislation at
Washington."

GOV. CUTLER'S REPLY.

To this letter Governor Cutler has
sent the following reply:

"I am in receipt of your communica-
tion of the 14th inst., referring to the
insurance investigation now being con-
ducted in New York. I observe that
you speak of certain matters as being
facts, and assuming their substantial-
ity, proceed from these premises
to certain conclusions. I respectfully
call your attention to your reference to

the 'Insurance Trust,' bribery, etc.; and respectfully suggest that my careful reading of the evidence offered, has failed to convince me that such a trust

essarily a fund for bribery. The use of a fund to protect the interest of policyholders against unfair and harmful legislation, may not only be advisable but absolutely necessary. But to protect bribery to those who use it is another matter. Has the testimony so far proved bribery?

IS OPPOSED TO BRIBERY.

"I wish you to understand, however, that if it should develop that bribery has been committed or even attempted, to one who is more willing than I to condemn the criminal and un-American practice." But has it not occurred

to you that the advice of Chairman Armstrong of the investigation committee is sound, that the public and the in-

Insurance officers in the various states shall suspend their judgment until all the facts have come out, and the committee has made its report?

FAVORS STRICT LAWS.

"I am in favor of the strictest law consistent with true freedom, for the control and supervision of life insurance. If grafting is proved, I think the grafters will be punished under the

criminal law now on the statute books. The matter is before the great state of New York, and I think that we can trust the officials of that state to do their duty.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

"It may be well for the government to take the matter of insurance under its supervision. I have no opinion to offer on that subject just now.

"You may count on me to assist in every way in checking any tendency

ward fraud, bribery, or corruption, in the insurance business or in any other line of business. We think calm and cool judgment should prevail, and the facts become fully known before drastic action is taken or recommended."

NAVY OF SAN DOMINGO.

El Presidente, its One Ship, is Deer-hound that Picked up Alabama Crew.

(Special to the "News.")

Washington, D. C., Nov. 23.—The navy of San Domingo, that troublesome republic which is the cause of so much trouble to the United States, consists of one ship. This vessel is known as El Presidente and she is now in the Norfolk navyyard undergoing repairs.

In interesting discovery, she recently been made in connection with this vessel. It has come to light that El Presidente is identical with the English

yacht formerly known as the Beech-
hound, which picked up the crew of the
Alabama when that confederate priva-

The vessel was sunk by the old Kearsarge off Cherbourg, France, during the civil war. The old vessel is little more than a tug today and the smallest converted yacht in the American navy so our experience little difficulty in putting her out of business with a single shot from a 6-inch gun.

WILLIAM RAILS DEAD.

The flag over Masonic hall is at half mast today on account of the death of William Rails, aged 50, a member of Mt. North Lodge No. 89, a member of city, under whose auspices the funeral will be held. Deceased was also a member of Capt. 55, Woodmen of the World. He was a native of Iowa.