Uncle Sam also ventured into the field of War Risk Marine Insurance and wrote about $2,000,000,000 worth of business. Premiums on this risk were $47,500,000 and losses paid totalled $30,000,000 leaving a profit of $17,500,000. Once more Uncle Sam is confronted with a similar problem. The U. S. Maritime Commission which administers the job of building up a merchant marine finds that available insurance in our own market is inadequate to our needs and that nearly one half of all American vessels and cargoes are insured in the world market.
Today we have 15 vessels of such high value that they cannot be insured in full in the American market. An example is the S.S. RICA valued at $18,000,000 on which the maximum coverage obtainable is $14,000,000. To meet this situation, Congress has given the Maritime Commission $40,000,000, with which to meet insurance requirements on our own vessels, cargoes and crew as these needs arise.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES.

The School Board of Minersville, Pennsylvania ordered daily patriotic exercises for the schools of that town which should include a salute to the flag by teachers and pupils. A little boy age 10 and a little girl age 12 refused to salute the flag. They gave as a reason that they were children of a member of Jehovah's Witnesses and regarded it as contrary to Scripture to do so. They were expelled from school. Legal action was instituted to compel their reinstatement. That case went to the Supreme Court of the U.S. That high tribunal ruled that the School Board had authority to compel a salute from teachers and pupils. The case attracted much attention. It also directed attention to the religious group known as Jehovah's Witnesses who have been on the front pages recently. Recently in Rockville, Maryland a hall where the Witnesses were meeting was mobbed. Other incidents have occurred in other sections of the country to bring them into the public eye. Who are they? Their title is derived from the 43 verse of the 12 chapter of Isaiah which reads, "Ye are witnesses" saith Jehovah "That I am God." They first organized in 1872 in Pennsylvania as the Bible Truth Society. In 1884 this was changed to the Zion Watchtower Society. Later it became the Watchtower Bible Tract Society and the members were known as Jehovah's Witnesses. They maintain national headquarters in a modest residence on Massachusetts Avenue in the nation's capital and have about 40,000 field workers, all of whom labor without remuneration in distributing literature. Fundamentally, they disbelieve in organized religion and find their inspiration in their own interpretation of Scripture.

POLL TAXES AND VOTES.

When the bill to amend the original Hatch Clean Politics Act was before Congress, an effort was made by Rep. Geyer of California to secure adoption of an amendment which would have made it a pernicious political practice to deny to any person the right to vote because he did not pay a poll tax. The amendment was bitterly assailed by southern members of Congress and was finally ruled out of consideration on a point of order. It is an age-old question. Eight southern states still require the payment of a poll tax before a voter can vote in a Federal election. It is strictly enforced and thereby prevents many persons, and particularly negroes from voting in these states. In the national election of 1936, 66% of the eligible voters actually voted but only 24% voted in the poll-tax states. In Alabama with a population of about 2,800,000 in 1936, less than 10% of the whole population voted for the office of United States Senator and less than 6% of the whole population voted for the 9 Congressmen from that state. The poll tax constitutes a rather effective method for controlling elections.