

# EVENTS

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## Is Gambling Illegal?

At the present time there is considerable talk in Ottawa on the subject of gambling, the police commissioner having made an investigation into the charge that a certain club was a gambling resort. A great many of the good people are very much disturbed over the charge of gambling, and in this case a body called the Ministerial Association detailed the Rev. Mr. MacIntosh, one of its members, to attend the investigation. It is not quite certain whether the association did this because of want of confidence in the ability of the county judge, the mayor, and the police magistrate to conduct the investigation properly. Probably he attended in the capacity of a reporter. The club in question probably have a deck of cards and a membership, and certain men spend certain evenings in the place. They probably play cards. Well, Mrs. Battle played cards, and we are told on very eminent authority that Mrs. Battle greatly enjoyed the playing of cards. She played with a zest and a zeal and the enthusiasm that must have been born of a gambling spirit. If she laid a guinea on the game in order to

manifest her enthusiasm and in order to back up her opinion of her own prowess she would be called a gambler. If she kept the guinea in her pocket she would be innocent.

The men who met in the Chandiere Club in Ottawa would probably incline to give some zest to their game by wagering on their skill or on chance. A man will bet on the result of a cricket match, or as to who will make the highest score, or whether one team will beat the other two to one. Men will bet on the chance of one horse beating another on the turf. The King is said to be in the habit of backing a horse at the Derby. Is this gambling? The lawn of the Ontario Jockey Club is every year for a week or two crowded with men who bet on the result of a horse race. Thousands do it. Very few of the ladies who frequent the Woodbine agree to pass the afternoon without wagering a few dollars on a horse. Are these ladies gambling? Is it an essential characteristic of gambling that it must be betting on the turn of a card or the turn of a wheel?

A legal definition of a wager was given