

of watchfulness and reliability in men has again been terribly emphasized for the world.

AN ANCIENT CITY

As age is reckoned in a new country, Halifax is an ancient city. It was founded in 1749 by the Hon. Edward Cornwallis in the days of the old rivalry between the French and the English, for it was begun as a rival to the French town of Louisburg in Cape Breton. It was named after the second Earl of Halifax, President of the Board of Trade and Plantations. In 1750 it became the capital instead of Annapolis, and in the wars of 1812 and the American Civil War, was much to the fore in connection with blockade-running. During a visit to Halifax a few years ago it was interesting to see the great iron staples in the rocks by the harbor, from which chains were stretched across to stop the old wooden ships. A bed of heather—a rare sight on this continent—is still flourishing where it was planted in that long ago. Dalhousie University, founded by the Earl of Dalhousie in 1818, and reorganized in 1863, is perhaps the chief distinction of Halifax. The city, while not given to booms, has solid citizens who will restore the shattered capital as the years pass.

CHINESE GAMBLING

The Chinese, like most other semi-heathen people, are much addicted to games of chance, and while we do not believe them to be sinners above all others in this respect, the question of gambling in Chinatown is much to the fore here and at other points in the Province. In my conversations with that remarkable man, the late Chief McLennan, not long before his lamented death, he declared that once the Chinese and others became acquainted with the effect of the Court of Appeal decision in *Rex vs. Riley*, the matter of gambling in the city would become an exceedingly serious problem. And he did everything in his power both in Ottawa and Victoria to have the law amended, but all in vain. What he prophesied has come to pass. Clever and unscrupulous lawyers of a certain class have not only made the Chinese aware of that legal decision but have helped them to form so-called clubs so as to evade the law. There are few things more distressing than to see police officers battering themselves against an evil practice which defies them because such practice is within the pale of the law. This law must be changed. It is notorious that gambling is rampant in Ottawa during sessions of Parliament, and if legislators there wish to rid themselves of the suspicion that they are not genuine in their efforts to enact a law that will suppress it, they had better make a decided move next session. In the meantime let us put the stamp of our strong disapproval upon gambling and upon every one who fosters that nefarious and destructive offence against morality and fair dealing.

ANOTHER WAR CHRISTMAS

Despite the fact that there is no other course open to us than to stop the mad dog of Europe in his murderous course, it is good to know that the opinion is stronger than ever that a state of war is an offence against the Christmas spirit. Some day "The Galilean" will conquer human sin and the era of peace will be ushered in for all time. In the meantime our hearts go out to the thousands and thousands of homes that will read the immortal Yule-tide lines of Tennyson with a new meaning in their own experience.