

of the people of this country are in favour of sweepstakes and that no government has the courage to enforce the present Act. Why not recognize this fact and legislate accordingly? It is a dead letter. Sweepstake betting cannot be eradicated. It should be controlled, regulated, and, like the liquor business, made to pay something either directly or indirectly to the State.

I do not think I can close my remarks better than by quoting the last paragraph from the speech of the right honourable leader of this House (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) on February 28. His words can be applied with equal force to sweepstakes. He said:

We never can get the world perfect. Some argue that the sale of liquor should be entirely prohibited. They say that because liquor is not good for society we ought to make its manufacture and sale a crime and ban it wholly. Assuming their premises to be sound, it does not follow that their remedy is feasible. If the traffic cannot as a matter of practical executive authority be banned, it may be better to seek to control it within certain limits. Our purpose is not to encourage, but rather to restrain the traffic, and we find in practice that we can restrain it better by laws of control than by attempting total prohibition. I must say that in the last few years there has been ample justification for this view in the experience both of Canada and of the country to the south.

The sooner we deal with this issue the sooner we shall make progress to the end that I know is fervently desired by all honourable members, that is, to guide and protect the rising generation and the weak-willed members of the community.

Hon. J. P. MOLLOY: Honourable senators, for reasons best known to myself I have been for a considerable period of time a silent voice in this Chamber. I have played the part of MacMillan's owl. He had an owl in his store, and a customer one day asked him if the bird ever spoke. MacMillan answered, "No, he never speaks, but he's a devil to think." So on my part, although I have not spoken, I have trained myself to be a fairly good thinker and an attentive listener, and I have paid very close attention to every word spoken by every honourable member in this Chamber.

When the honourable the junior member from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Hocken) discussed this Bill he divided his remarks into two sections—the Louisiana Lottery and the demoralizing effect that the enactment of this measure might have upon many of our young people. As to the Louisiana Lottery, as explained by the honourable member from Ponteix (Hon. Mr. Marcotte), the lottery was discontinued because its management became corrupt.

Hon. Mr. McRAE.

With respect to the demoralizing effect of participation in lotteries, I do not agree with the views of the honourable the junior member from Toronto. No one can convince me that the spending of from one to five dollars by any good citizen of this country to purchase a lottery ticket will tend to his demoralization and that of his family and neighbours. I wonder if the honourable senator has ever been shocked by the hopeless outlook of those of our fellow citizens who have lost their last nickel and mortgaged their future by gambling on the stock exchange, the grain exchange, the mining exchange or similar institutions. I admit that sweepstakes are a gamble. But so are operations on the stock exchange, the grain exchange, the mining exchange. In fact everything that we do from the time we get up in the morning until we go to bed at night is a gamble.

The right honourable member from Eganville (Right Hon. Mr. Graham) in the course of his remarks on this Bill expressed his deep concern for the youth of this country. And well he might. The youth of this country need all the attention that the right honourable member and his friends—and I am one of them—are quite willing and eager to give them. Our youth to-day do not conduct themselves better than, indeed perhaps not as well as, the youth of the Irish Free State, where lotteries are conducted at what we might term the very threshold of their homes. We have done certain things, not connected with sweepstakes, which have not been conducive to the elevation of our youth. Let me cite our prohibition legislation. Has prohibition tended to the elevation of the youth of this country? I submit it has not. On the contrary, it has encouraged them to violate the law. They violated the law by purchasing illicit whiskey from those who were in league with the bootlegger.

But conditions in this respect were even worse in the United States. Arthur Brisbane, a prominent American newspaper editor, went so far as to say that prohibition was such a curse that some of the best fathers and mothers preferred to make their own whiskey rather than let their children run the risk of being poisoned by drinking the product of the bootlegger at public or semi-public gatherings. I say that prohibition has done more harm to the youth of Canada and the United States than all the sweepstake tickets that could be issued by reason of the enactment of this law.

Something else is taking place in this country and in the United States as a result of the invention of the automobile. I have