

The Government rushed new issues and the series proved such a success that at the end of 1933 those in charge estimate 2,000,000,000 francs, or around \$140,000,000 worth of tickets were sold. From the total received the French Government gets forty per cent for pensions and farm relief—a new revenue, falling like manna.

But France isn't the only country astonished at the response to this reborn form of getting money. The Republic of Panama participated very profitably in a sweepstakes on the Christmas Handicap run at Panama City on December 24 last. Tickets, sold in issues of \$500,000 each, were peddled throughout the United States, our laws being unenforceable—thus painlessly taxing plenty of citizens of the United States for the upkeep of Panama public hospitals.

For years the Irish Free State has taken a \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 slice of revenue annually from the \$35,000,000 spent throughout the world for the several Irish Hospitals Sweepstakes based on the Epsom Derby, the Grand National, and other horse-races run in England—where lotteries are forbidden, and most of the money invested in the Irish sweeps is spent by Englishmen and Americans.

#### What about Canadian money?

Down in Mexico, a successful, honest \$20,000,000-a-year lottery is operated by the Government. Around \$3,500,000 is taken annually from total subscriptions for the support of public hospitals. Spain has enjoyed its \$25,000,000 Christmas lottery, once the biggest in the world, and sliced considerable revenue from it. Cuba has its lottery, and it flourishes in an orderly fashion even when governments are changing and people are being butchered in Havana streets. Mussolini is conducting more and more lotteries for various public works in Italy; Hitler in recent months conducted a national lottery to raise funds for unemployment relief. Sweden's national lottery is extremely popular, and the government's slice from it goes for the support of literature, art, drama, and music.

At this point may I quote a dispatch which appeared in the Montreal Star of Friday, September 29, 1933:

#### Italy's Profit From Lotteries More Than \$40,000,000 Yearly

Rome, Sept. 29.—Italy's Government makes a considerable profit from the weekly state lottery, which is estimated to bring in more than 500,000,000 lire (\$40,000,000 at present rates) a year into the state's coffers.

The actual figures for the past six months show that the Government received from this source no less than 263,000,000 lire (\$20,000,000).

This weekly state lottery is an old and extremely popular institution in Italy and thousands of poor people enter it regularly every week. It has been calculated that the pennies of the poor assure the continuance of this handsome source of gain to the Government.

The lottery is held in eight of the chief cities of Italy. In the first six months of the year 144,667,000 lire were paid out in winnings. The system adopted is very simple and consists of attempts to guess the five numbers between one and ninety that are drawn in each of the eight cities.

Hon. Mr. MARCOTTE.

The article in the Reader's Digest deals next with Soviet Russia:

Soviet Russia is one country where the lottery does not appear to provide much fun. Everybody who buys a government bond is given a ticket eligible for a cash prize. This is done to cheer up the Russian workers, because they have to buy bonds, so much being taken out of their pay weekly for the purchase of these. If they object they face the prospect of losing their food cards—starvation. On the day of the drawings newspapers and the radio flash the winning numbers of tickets which the workers pocketed with their bonds. But only a few of the winners ever bother to collect their winnings. They don't see any use in having the money, because there is practically nothing in Russia on which they can spend it. As a result the Soviet lottery treasury has unclaimed prizes amounting to 19,000,000 rubles in its coffers.

I wonder if the C.C.F. propagandists would care to publish that paragraph?

With most of the rest of the world enjoying the dreams and revenues incident to lotteries, lotteries and sweepstakes of all kinds are prohibited in Japan, England, and the United States. The serious-minded Japanese are notoriously poor gamblers. All sorts of betting on horse-races and most racing were rigidly outlawed years ago after an infuriated track crowd not only hacked the jockeys to pieces, but a horse as well, because losers thought the race had been fixed. After these fatalities the Mikado and his Elder Statesmen decided that gambling and the Japanese temperament did not mix.

Once the lottery was the Government's favourite form of raising new levies in England, but under the questionably virtuous rule of George IV a flock of Puritan scruples were embodied in the Act of 1826. To-day Englishmen are the greatest buyers of sweepstakes and lottery tickets in the world, spending an estimated \$200,000,000 a year on them. Lately, bluff, hearty Sir John George Stewart-Murray, Duke of Atholl, leading the battle for the legalization of lotteries in England, grew so disgusted with seeing Englishmen send their money to Ireland and Calcutta that he decided to do something about it. He began to sell flocks of tickets, with the sole explanation that the proceeds would be "disposed of in such manner as the Duke of Atholl shall, in his absolute and uncontrolled discretion, see fit." Exactly 337,000 Englishmen had so much faith in the Duke's discretion that they paid an average of about \$2.50 for the tickets. From the proceeds His Grace gave \$290,000 to needy British hospitals. The rest he distributed as 748 gifts to certain ticket holders, without explanation. Punctilious Scotland Yard haled the distinguished Duke to common, dreary Bow Street and there he was fined twenty-five pounds for violating lottery laws. He contended gallantly that since he made no promises there was no contract, and therefore no lottery. His ingenious defense failed, but he served notice that he would continue his private war.

Once our forefathers of both church and state esteemed lotteries as a valuable institution of our national life. George Washington, in 1776, bought one of the first tickets in the Continental Congress \$5,000,000 Lottery, when Congress needed money to fight the redcoats.