

prohibits the distribution or gift by it in any manner whatsoever, directly or indirectly, of prizes consisting of money or of any thing of value other than bona fide works of art as aforesaid; and it being further enacted that such licenses shall continue in force for one year only from the date of issue, but may be renewed from year to year upon the application of the company, and that it shall be lawful for the Secretary of State, whenever it shall appear to him that any such society is being perverted from its legitimate purposes, to revoke and cancel the license issued to any such society, and that any action so taken by the Secretary of State shall be final and shall not be called in question by any society affected thereby. And provided further that in connection with such distribution the society shall have strictly and bona fide observed such provisions of its constitution and in no way directly or indirectly violated the same or any of them, or by advertisement or otherwise undertaken or announced that it would do anything contrary to such provisions.

Mr. MONK. Is this something new?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. Yes. My hon. friend will remember the inconvenience which was occasioned in Montreal from the application of the old subsection (c) of section 6 of the Criminal Code. There were a series of lotteries running wide open at various street corners, to the detriment of the youth and to the disadvantage of the city generally. That subsection was repealed; but the result of the repeal was to interfere with the operations of the Art Union of London; and this amendment is introduced specially for the purpose of meeting that case and at the same time to legitimize honest attempts to deal with works of art. The section was drafted in view of the representations made to me by the directors of the Art Union of London. It is for the House to say whether I have covered the case sufficiently to limit the operation of the section to the proper distribution of art works.

Mr. OSLER. The hon. gentleman has covered it if he will provide that the Secretary of State shall pass an examination as to his knowledge of art.

Mr. MONK. There may be some special necessity for this legislation, and I do not claim to be able to say whether it meets the case of the London Art Union or not. But I would suggest to the Minister of Justice that this legislation will expose the Secretary of State to a great many applications which will appear to be bona fide in every respect; and if he sees fit to grant these applications, we shall have, I am afraid, a renewal in the city of Montreal of the evils to which the Minister of Justice has just referred. It is impossible to estimate the amount of evil that is done in the city of Montreal by these lotteries. I have seen it myself, and so have, I am sure, other members of this House who are familiar with the conditions that existed in the city of Montreal; and unless there is some

absolute necessity for meeting the case of the London Art Union, I would strongly appeal to the Minister of Justice to hold this clause in abeyance, and see if it is not possible to dispense with it, for the present at least. I know that parties will apply for the license referred to in this subsection, and give every apparent proof of good faith, and that those same parties will afterwards abuse that license; and it is almost impossible for the authorities to reach them. That we should have a re-introduction into the city of Montreal of the lotteries that have desolated that city in the past, is something almost too dreadful to contemplate; and if it is possible to avoid it, even in this legislation, introduced, I have no doubt, with the best intention, I would strongly appeal to the Minister of Justice to defer it.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. I will do with this section as I have agreed to do with respect to those relating to cigarettes, and preferential dealing—allow it to stand over in the hope that public attention may be called to the matter. I believe I have surrounded this section with all the safeguards it requires. However, I am willing to let it stand over in the hope that the people interested in the matter will consider it. At the same time, I think, speaking from the limited knowledge I have, that the Art Union of London has done very good work in this country, and if it were possible for us, without subjecting the public to the inconvenience resulting from the system of lotteries as we have had them heretofore, to come to the aid of the directors of the Art Union, I am extremely anxious to do it.

Mr. MONK. It might perhaps be possible to do so by special legislation. Here you have an institution above suspicion, but any general legislation will open the door to abuse.

Mr. LEMIEUX. As my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier has said, we have had very serious and frequent complaints in Montreal about this evil of the lottery system. Until last year we have had many societies, which pretended to encourage art, but which were really gambling institutions. We found out that the paintings which they distributed to the prize winners, they immediately brought back. Last year, the good faith of the hon. the Secretary of State was taken advantage of, when he granted to a so-called colonization society of Montreal a charter by letters patent, which enabled them to sell some lots in the northern district of Montreal for colonization purposes. Under a clause in the letters patent, they subdivided the shares of the company and converted this so-called colonization society into an organized lottery. A charge was laid before the police magistrate of Montreal, and Mr. Justice Choquette sent one

Hon. Mr. FITZPATRICK.