

as such, are morally bad for the people. So far as this point is concerned, there is really not much to be said. The arguments pro and con have been debated in this Chamber during the last two or three years, and I do not think that people who held strong views on one side or the other have changed them to any great extent as a result. It is idle to attempt to convert to the principles of this Bill a person who believes that the purchasing of a lottery ticket is a sinful act; it is equally idle to attempt to convince a person who has been in the habit of buying tickets of this description that such a practice is in the least reprehensible. Therefore I do not intend to dwell upon this feature at all.

The second ground upon which the Commission bases its finding is that the conduct of lotteries or sweepstakes for the benefit of hospitals in England would diminish the voluntary contributions now made towards maintenance. As a matter of fact, such a ground does not exist in the Dominion of Canada. As I stated before, the hospitals in this country have three sources of revenue—provincial grants, municipal grants, and revenue from pay patients; and I think I am correct in saying that the revenue which comes from voluntary contributions towards the maintenance of hospitals—and I distinguish between day-to-day maintenance and capital expenditure—is infinitesimal when compared with the sums derived from other sources. If I am wrong in this, my honourable friend from East Kootenay (Hon. Mr. King), who is much more conversant with this side of the subject than I am, can correct me. I think, however, that in making this statement I am perfectly within the facts. In any event, the total of some fifteen million pounds per annum voluntarily subscribed for the maintenance of hospitals in England is, as I understand, administered on a basis entirely different from that prevailing in this country. The medical work for the outdoor and the poorer patients is, I understand, done voluntarily. A member of the medical profession considers it an honour, I am told, to be appointed to the surgical or medical staff of one of those hospitals, and anyone so chosen gives his services to the hospital free of charge. The whole system, as I say, is different from the system that obtains in this country, and to my mind the reasoning of the Commission does not apply to the hospitals in Canada.

Since this House last considered this subject something else has happened. I refer to the very important support and advocacy of a measure such as this from the great province of Quebec, and from no less a person than

the Hon. Mr. Taschereau himself. According to reports I have read in the press, at the recent Provincial Conference Mr. Taschereau pressed the Dominion Government to pass legislation along the lines suggested in this Bill; and I am informed and believe that he feels strongly enough on the subject to have caused to be introduced at the present session of the Quebec Legislature a bill which would enable him to take advantage of this or any similar measure which Parliament might enact. Judging by this action of Mr. Taschereau and by other things of which I have heard since my arrival in Ottawa, I feel safe in saying that public opinion in favour of a bill of this kind is steadily growing throughout the country. I know that is so in my own province.

To put it shortly, it appears to me that the benefits that would come from this Bill are three-fold. In the first place, it would provide ample funds for the maintenance of our hospitals, funds that would be derived from a source at present contributing absolutely nothing towards such an object. I am well aware that the people who would buy lottery or sweepstake tickets, if the Bill were passed, would not do so from any special desire to benefit the hospitals; nevertheless a portion of the money which they spent on such tickets would be turned over to the hospitals, and the total of these moneys would be sufficient to maintain such institutions. Secondly, the passing of this measure would enable people to do legally what they are now doing illegally. Undoubtedly, as every member of this House knows, the sale and purchase of lottery and sweepstake tickets is widespread throughout the Dominion. This is not a desirable state of affairs, for it tends to bring our law into contempt, and I repeat that we can remedy the situation by passing legislation of the kind now proposed. Thirdly, such legislation would check to some extent, at least, the steady flow of money from Canada for the purchase of lottery tickets in other countries. This is a matter worth consideration, though possibly of minor importance.

Hon. C. P. BEAUBIEN: Honourable senators, I introduced this Bill, but I desire to state that I did so purely as a matter of courtesy, in accordance with the custom followed when an honourable member sponsoring a Bill is called away from the House before the Bill is reached. I must say that notwithstanding the arguments advanced by the honourable member from Victoria (Hon. Mr. Barnard), and by persons outside this House, I have not been able to conclude that the Bill is a commendable one. I shall not dwell