

PRIVATE BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. W. E. FOSTER moved the second reading of Bill D, an Act to incorporate Personal Finance Corporation.

He said: This Bill is exactly in the same terms as a Bill passed by Parliament last session, entitled an Act to incorporate the Discount and Loan Corporation. The object of the measure is the incorporation of a loan company which would make loans in small amounts. Such a company can perform very necessary services in the field of credit. There are already three companies of this kind doing business in Canada under Dominion Government supervision. I intend, if second reading is given, to move that the Bill be sent to the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: Has the Bill been printed?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I have a copy of it.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

HOSPITAL SWEEPSTAKES BILL

MOTION FOR SECOND READING—DEBATE
CONTINUED

The Senate resumed from yesterday the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. Barnard for the second reading of Bill A, an Act with respect to Hospital Sweepstakes.

Hon. JAMES MURDOCK: Honourable senators, this is the third successive session that the Senate has considered a Bill of the kind now before us. When someone asked the other day whether I was going to speak upon the measure, I said that I was not, but it seemed to me last night that the Senate was ready to take a vote on the second reading after only three honourable members had spoken. I suppose it does not make much difference to us personally what happens to the Bill, but I am a little concerned with the question whether we are going to place ourselves in what I should regard as a ridiculous position by passing the Bill in this House when it is only reasonable to assume that the elected representatives of the people will turn it down as soon as they have an opportunity of dealing with it. The year before last the Senate itself rejected proposed legislation of this kind. Last year a similar measure, which was earnestly sponsored by the honourable senator from Vancouver (Hon. Mr. McRae), was passed here, but I cannot help feeling that the favourable vote was to a large extent

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM.

complimentary to the sponsor. However, we all know what happened later in the other House.

A great deal might be said about measures whereby we should be relieved of the obligation of digging down into our jeans for money to give in support of a good cause, and the required money would be obtained from people whom we could enthrall with the belief that their outlay might prove to be a good investment, or that, in the words of the old Scotch saying, many a mickle makes a muckle. In the March issue of the Reader's Digest, which I was looking through the other day, among many articles well worth reading, I found one entitled "The Return of Lotteries." I will not quote the entire article by any means. The first sentence, which pretty well gives the gist of the whole thing, reads this way:

Lotteries were once labelled by Henry Fielding as "a taxation on all the fools in creation."

It is not in any holier-than-thou attitude that I am opposing this Bill. I have drawn three cards to a pair of deuces, and then tried to convince the other fellow that I had the best hand. I have been at a horse-race, not very often, but occasionally, for an afternoon's sport. I think I have had in my possession lottery tickets, but I do not know when or where, and I imagine they were bought to please some friend. So, I repeat, I am not speaking in any holier-than-thou spirit. But I do want to know whether the Senate—which we are all so proud of, as the balance-wheel in the enactment of legislation that has to do with the government, the guidance and the protection of our people—is going to endorse a measure which would mean in effect the transferring of our just responsibilities to the shoulders of those of our citizens who are less fortunate than ourselves.

I think it would not be unfair to put upon the record the contents of a circular letter which I received the other day, as I presume all other honourable members did. It is on the stationery of the Social Service Council of Canada, 37 Bloor Street West, Toronto, and is dated February 12, 1934. The names of the officers of the Association are stated, and the letter is signed by the General Secretary of the Council, Rev. J. Phillips Jones, M.A., D.D. I notice that this Social Service Council apparently covers the length and breadth of Canada. The letter reads:

Honourable and Dear Sir:

In view of the fact that an Act to legalize Hospital Sweepstakes has passed its first reading in the Senate of Canada, the Social Service Council of Canada respectfully draws your