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Liquor vs. Lotteries.

Under the above heading the Montreal 'Witness' prints an editorial article which we subjoin. Of course the 'Witness' very well understands that the publicans of Montreal are concerned much less for the morals of the people than for their own pockets. What principally troubles them is that people who spend their money for lottery tickets do not have it to spend for drinks. But the lottery is none the less a tremendous evil because it comes in competition with another as great or greater than itself and those who promote the gambling spirit among the people, whether they do it in the name of religion or art, or some much less respectable name, are promoting one of the most demoralizing influences which finds place in human society. The 'Witness' says:

"The law and order people have long been trying to check the growth of the lottery evil, but have been very unsuccessful in arousing much interest in the matter on the part of good. These have for the most part associated lotteries with pious works. They have indeed seen them actively advocated and vigorously promoted by the clergy of some churches, and they have been inclined to look on those who were fighting them as fanatical faddists. Eminent public men have indeed not been ashamed to associate themselves with lottery schemes whose object was, without dispute, to make money out of the gambling propensity, and public opinion throughout large sections of our people has been decidedly in favor of the lottery and not against it. Subterfuges for evading the law against gambling have been sympathized with as harmless devices, and Montreal, owing to the repression of the business in the United States, has become the lottery emporium of the continent. What must the tolerators of this blighting vice think of their indifference when they see the liquor sellers declaring from month to month as they meet how they view with alarm the ever increasing immunity allowed to lotteries in the city of Montreal and the rapid increase of the evil till it has become 'a menace to the community.' It is a curious condition of society when the Church is the advocate, promoter and cloak of an evil, and the publicans are its expositors and opponents, but it is by no means the first time that the Church has had a reform snatched from its hands by those that were most unlikely. Mr. Gladstone has indeed said that the history of reforms has shown that the exalted, the learned and the pious are as a rule found on the wrong side of them, and the movement for the overthrow of standing evils has to originate elsewhere. In this particular matter, doubtless, no one knows better how insinuating and how blighting the evil is. The Licensed Victuallers speak of it as 'an outrage on the community,' and as 'a trap for the youth of both sexes, not only to learn to gamble, but generally to ruin their masters, thus causing

News Summary.

Fire Thursday night gutted half of the Dominion metal works, on Craig street, Montreal. Loss \$60,000.

The revenue for the Dominion for the nine months ending March 31 last was \$33,058,841, as against \$28,120,917 for the same period last year. The expenditure for the same time was \$25,120,917, as compared with 22,987,258 for 1898.

Rear Admiral Sir Frederick George Denham Bedford has been appointed to succeed Vice Admiral Sir John Arbuthnot Fisher as commander-in-chief of the North American and West Indies station. Sir John Fisher, it is said, will be promoted to the Mediterranean station.

A syndicate with \$300,000,000 backing, composed of New York, Philadelphia and Chicago men, has been formed and is now negotiating for the purchase and consolidation of all the Chicago traction companies, surface and elevated with good prospects of a successful conclusion.

Nonconformist ministers are accusing the Hawarden church of "Romanism." A leaflet circulated in the parish said it was a sin to enter a Nonconformist place of worship, and both the Rev. Stephen Gladstone and Herbert Gladstone are now trying to explain away the matter.

The pure beer bill passed the New York assembly Thursday by a vote of 80 ayes to 54 noes. The bill provides beer shall be manufactured from pure barley malt, pure hops, pure yeast and pure water by a mechanical process.

The chairman and board of investigation of the governors of the Royal Canadian Humane Association have unanimously awarded to L. T. Harrison, Summerside, P. E. I., a medal for conspicuous courage and daring in saving Miss Annie A. Aitkin from drowning in Miramichi River in September last. Mr. Harrison is now in the Merchants' Bank of Halifax in Halifax.

The New York Herald says: Brigadier General Roy Stone will go to Washington to-morrow, where he will call the attention of the President to the starvation and distress in Porto Rico. He thinks that the desperate state of the people may lead to insurrection if relief is not forthcoming. He has just returned from a journey of ten days through the interior of the island.

The first chapters of Count Tolstoy's great novel appear in the April Cosmopolitan. Publication is taking place simultaneously in the United States, England, France, Germany, Austria and Russia. The novel has been carefully edited for The Cosmopolitan. No part of the story has been lost, though, perhaps, the reader is deprived of some of the picturesqueness which appeared in the original Russian.

Mr. McInnes, M. P., has given notice of a bill to amend the criminal code. He wants to make it an offense for any spiritual adviser to attempt to influence electors. He also desires to make it an offense for an employer within a certain time before or after an election to dismiss an employe because of the course he pursued in regard to election. Mr. McInnes also gives notice of a bill to provide for a speedy appeal to court from any official act of the gold commissioner or any other mining officer.

The international temperance congress now being held in Paris is attracting considerable attention. The discussions of the congress have given prominence to the radical and despotic measure of the St. Petersburg municipality to suppress or check drunkenness. The city government has arbitrarily closed 25,000 dram shops, substituting 5,000 under state control, wherein the variety of liquors and the amount sold is to be strictly limited.

Toronto Monetary Times: The pulp industry is much in evidence at present, but it may be overdone. According to the opinion of one thoroughly versed in the business, but few, if any, mills in the Dominion are earning a profit, above expenses, and there are a lot more building. It is a business which is proving most destructive to our forests, for everything in the shape of a tree falls before the remorseless axeman. A law prohibiting the cutting of spruce trees under a certain size should be rigidly enforced. In the end it will prove a beneficent policy for the pulp makes.

Almost a fatal tragedy is reported from Gaspé. A man named Pontin disguised himself with a mask and went out masquerading in female clothing. One house entertained by him contained only a half-witted individual, who appeared terribly frightened at the strange apparition and took up an axe to fight it, with the result that Pontin was grievously wounded and left lying bleeding and insensible on the floor. Later he was conveyed to his residence and a physician summoned in all haste. He still remains in a critical condition. His assailant is in custody.

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