

6—AN ACT PERMITTING FRAUDS ON THE POOR, THE IGNORANT AND THE UNSUSPECTING.

It is a significant fact that U. S. State Laws on this subject are frequently entitled,—“An Act to Prevent Frauds upon Travellers.”

Every passenger agent in the United States is aware of many cases of fraud caused by ticket scalpers where the sufferers were generally either poor or ignorant or both.

The records of U. S. Courts for many years are full of cases where the nefarious practices of ticket scalping are set forth.

The Act proposed by the promoter of the bill will give full opportunities for practising these frauds in Canada, which has been free from them since 1882.

Laws prohibiting traffic in railway passenger tickets except under license by the transportation lines have been adopted by the following States, viz:—Georgia, Florida, Indiana, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Tennessee and Washington.

As still further showing the trend of affairs in the United States the Chicago newspapers made the following announcement on December 12th, 1906, viz:

“Adolph Ottinger, chief among railroad ticket scalpers, is going out of business. It is his prediction that ere long ticket scalping in the United States will be a thing of the past. Ottinger's surrender is held to be the most potent sign that the end of scalping is near.”

7—TICKET SCALPING OFFERS FACILITIES FOR THE DISPOSAL OF STOLEN, FORGED AND COUNTERFEIT TICKETS.

In the hearing before the Committee on Interstate Commerce of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, 1897, it was stated and not controverted that:

“The ticket scalping offices of this country (U.S.) are generally recognized by the Courts, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the various State Railway Commissions, and other unprejudiced persons who have taken the time to investigate the subject, as ‘fences’ where stolen, forged and counterfeit tickets and other fraudulent evidences of a right to travel find a ready market.”

“It is the opinion of every man who has investigated the question, that were it not for ticket scalping offices, there would be no incentive to steal, forge, or counterfeit railroad tickets, as there would be no place for their disposal.”

Under the present law, Canada has been free from crimes of this kind. The proposed bill would let down the bars and the experience of the United States in this connection would be repeated in this country.

The Railway Ticket Protective Bureau in its report of operations states:

“Whenever the Bureau has raided the offices of the scalpers (under legal warrant), it has never failed to find all of the tools, implements and materials of the forger and counterfeit, such as false dies, stamps, rubber type, stamps for redating, acids for removing writing and printing, material for restoring surface and color to plugged tickets, etc.”

Is the result sought to be attained by the promoter of the bill a sufficient justification for this probable flood of iniquity?