

hold the views I do with respect to the so-called sin of gambling, and generally to all the members of the house.

To explain the bill, as I suppose I must, may I say that one clause provides that the attorney general of any province may authorize sweepstakes and may make regulations. These regulations shall be printed so that the public generally may know the rules of the game, and be assured that they are getting a run for their money. Authority is given to sell tickets, notwithstanding anything which may be in the criminal code, and penalties are provided for those who sell tickets without authorization. That is about all there is in the bill. It may appear to a number of hon. members, as it does to me, that we might strike from the bill altogether the provisions regarding hospitals. There is no necessity for being hypocritical about it; let us just put the bill on the basis on which most of us

to buy a ticket in a sweepstake.  
tunity for the citizens of Canada who so desire  
think it should be, that of affording an oppo-

Mr. A. U. G. BURY (East Edmonton): I am a little in doubt whether the hon. member who spoke last (Mr. Power) was speaking seriously or jocularly. I could not help but remember, as I listened to the first part of his argument, based on the action of the Senate, the argument along absolutely opposite lines made I think, by him, certainly by some hon. members on the opposite side, in connection with the railway bill which is now in committee. Hon. members on that side were vociferous in their protestations that the mere fact that the Senate had given its blessing, its imprimatur to the railway bill after most elaborate and careful consideration, after hearing an enormous amount of evidence at great expense, was no argument for its acceptance here; they were none the less disinclined to accept the findings of the Senate. They were not even prepared to give any weight to these findings.

Mr. POWER: I was dealing with the morality aspect.

Mr. BURY: They said that this house must stand on its own feet and consider the question independently, without taking into consideration any argument of the Senate or any result at which the Senate arrived. That being so, when we come to this bill, which certainly had not the support of the Senate to the extent the other bill had, which certainly had not the consideration given to it by the Senate which the other bill had, I can hardly

believe that my hon. friend is anything but jocular when he asks us to give any weight to the fact that the Senate has passed this bill.

He has referred to the conditions in which the country unfortunately finds itself, the condition of depression from which people in all positions are suffering. He has urged that this is one means of dissipating the mental state arising from the depression, that if we put this bill on the statute books the sun will shine again, the clouds will roll away, the birds will sing and all will be for the best in this best of all possible worlds. I can hardly believe that. My own strong feeling is that one of the things which we need—and in that need I associate myself with every other citizen of Canada,—more than anything else at this time is not the spirit of gambling but the spirit of hard work and of thrift. I am quite conscious from my experience in the small circle in which I move that one of the great curses of the last few years has been the spirit of gambling. I do not think there is anything which this parliament could do that would be worse than to pass a bill which gives countenance to the institution and practice of gambling. If you like to the spirit of gambling.

bling, and which is a distinct and in-

My hon. friend skated over the provisions of the bill with consummate skill; I think if he had dwelt upon them he would have found that the ice was not strong enough to bear his weight. As I look through the provisions of this bill I find that the sweepstakes that are to be made legal are virtually the sweepstakes of the attorneys general of the provinces. The attorney general of each province is linked with this machinery from first to last. He does almost everything except to advertise and sell the tickets. It is he who gives sanction to it; it is he who decides among what hospitals the money is to be divided; it is he who is to determine the proportions in which the money is to go to such hospitals. It is he who does almost everything from first to last, and the committee is very little more than his agent. I therefore think it would be the worst possible action on the part of this government to pass a bill of this kind. I have, as perhaps hon. members of this house know, a profound admiration for the legislative wisdom of the people of the motherland, and I cannot refuse to allow myself to be influenced by the fact that notwithstanding that in England gambling is practised to a very great extent and society indulges in that pastime and indulges very extensively in betting on horse races, the coursing of greyhounds, and every other con-