

# Why is it Wrong to Gamble?

An Address delivered before the Ministerial Association  
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## MAGNITUDE OF THE EVIL.

The magnitude of the gambling evil is generally acknowledged. It is not the exclusive sport of the wealthy few, but a national ill, infecting all classes of society. It is not spontaneous, but is encouraged and organized by peripatetic "book-makers." Inspector Duncan estimates the yearly handbook business of Toronto alone at \$9,000,000. There is much thoughtless following of fashion, and there is more of deliberate propagation of the practice.

## ATTITUDE OF APATHY.

The social conscience is only partially awakened to the extent of the mania and its grievous consequences. Where the disease takes hold, weakened character, misery and crime result. There are reasons for the apathetic attitude adopted towards it.

1. The general public do not realize its rapid growth and the mischief it entails.
2. Unlike drunkenness, it is not overly repulsive.
3. There is a real difficulty in knowing where to draw the line between the legitimate and the illegitimate in speculation. Allowance must be made for the element of risk in all business.
4. It is hard to suggest the right practical remedy to counteract so insidious an evil. Some think that because, like sin, it seems ineradicable from human nature, nothing at all should be done.
5. There is a lack of clear thought on the ethics of the question. What is the real element of wrong in it?