

Like the honourable member from Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock), I am not opposing this Bill because of any feeling that I am better than others. I cannot think of any normal person who is not as good as I.

I am probably as well aware of the condition of the hospitals, the municipalities, and the provinces as anybody else. The condition described as existing in Vancouver is common to every locality. Municipalities everywhere are finding it extremely difficult to contribute to the hospitals the funds necessary for the maintenance of patients committed to their care. Those of you who have anything to do with hospitals in a practical way will readily understand the difficulty of the situation at the present time. The municipalities are objecting to the practice, so frequently indulged in, of sending to the hospitals patients who could be looked after in their own home. The committal of such people to hospitals adds to the already great burdens which the municipalities are called upon to bear. I have every sympathy with the hospitals, the municipalities and the provinces, but the Federal Parliament cannot very well come to the rescue of the provinces every time they require assistance. We are going a long way in that direction now, and in doing so we are overstepping the bounds of the Constitution.

We have heard men prominent in provincial affairs suggesting a change in the Constitution. I am inclined to think that this suggestion is made because the provinces are desirous of escaping some of the responsibilities they assumed at the time of Confederation. The obligation so far as hospitals are concerned rests not with the Dominion of Canada, but with the provinces and municipalities. I am not saying that in times like these the federal authorities should not aid the provinces or the municipalities, but I maintain that we should not rush in to assume, as of right, responsibilities which under the Constitution do not belong to us, even though for the time being we are assuming them as a matter of generosity.

We are in a time of serious depression, the effects of which are being felt by every institution; but I do not think we should attempt to raise money by means of lotteries. It is true that appeals on behalf of hospitals might meet with a more favourable response than appeals on behalf of other institutions. We must not forget, however, that the money for lotteries would come out of the pockets of the people, a great majority of whom ought to be using it to buy bread and butter and to pay their debts to the storekeeper. Men of means do not indulge in lotteries to any great extent.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM.

In addition to imposing a burden on the people—one which they would perhaps assume voluntarily, aided and abetted, like the honourable gentleman from Pictou (Hon. Mr. Tanner), by their sporting instinct—lotteries would deprive them of money that they should spend in other ways. In nine hundred and ninety-nine cases out of a thousand they would never get back a farthing; nevertheless they would keep on trying to recoup their losses. That is not the kind of education that our young people need.

The difficulties of the world to-day are due in large measure to the desire of humanity to make a living without working for it. You may say this is not the same thing. But the principle is the same. People who indulge in lotteries are eager to gain a large sum of money by a small expenditure. What we ought to be drilling into the minds of our young people to-day is the legitimacy of the old theory of supply and demand, of working or of giving value for what we get, instead of expecting to get something for nothing. Now, if we staid members of the Senate rush in to show the boys how they can make a few dollars without working for them, we shall be encouraging something that has had much to do with the wrecking of the world's financial structure. My honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Tanner) says that we have always attended horse-races, and probably we always shall; but when we do we see something. It is not so with lotteries. We run to the stock exchange and form pools, hoping that the price of some stock will increase far beyond its real value, and intending to sell it at an enhanced price and in that way get something for nothing. This is the spirit that has undermined the business honesty of the world.

As a man getting up in years, I feel that I ought to raise my voice against any such proposal as this, even though I admit the need of the hospitals. It is the duty of the provinces and municipalities to maintain them, and every time they try to evade that duty they attempt to transfer it to some person or body that is not at all responsible for these institutions.

The principle behind this Bill is wrong. I do not wish to encourage anything that would tend to educate the young men of this country to do business in any other way than along the line of good business principles. We have had too much of the other kind of thing and have been in danger of becoming wrecked. I hope that the Senate will act as it did two years ago and defeat the measure.

Hon. L. C. WEBSTER: Honourable senators, I feel that perhaps at this late date I