
HISTORICAL SKETCH OF A GREAT NEWSPAPER

relationship. This latter element was further indicated by the knighthood which came to Mr. Graham in 1908 and the chorus of approval which was expressed by the newspapers of Canada while it was strengthened by the prominent part which Sir Hugh took at the Imperial Press conference of 1909 as representing the Montreal Star.

Local Campaigns

St. James Methodist Church—Crusade against Lotteries and Usurers—
Montreal General Hospital—C. D. Sheldon

Meantime the Star had continued its policy of helping good causes and trying to destroy local evils. In 1898 it came to the rescue of an historic church building in Montreal which was threatened by the foreclosure of a mortgage—St. James Methodist Church. A public appeal was made on November 17 and in a very short time enough was raised to clear the church of its burden. In 1890 a crusade was initiated against lotteries. Under a great straining of the clause in the Criminal Code by which the raffling of small articles at bazaars for charitable purposes and drawings at art unions were permitted, there had grown up in Montreal scores of professional lotteries with thousands of ticket agencies. Drawings were openly held twice a day. The Star decided to organize a crusade against them and on April 19 it editorially summarized the situation as follows: "Out of every \$100,000 expended in tickets in a certain lottery only \$15,000 were returned to the public in prizes. It is strange that people should need to be protected by law from going into such business as this; but thousands of Montreal families are being impoverished at the present time by these lotteries. Of course, the victims belong to the least intelligent classes and are quite incapable of forming any idea of the tremendous odds against them in the game. Some of these lotteries are controlled by very prominent and wealthy citizens." Senator R. Dandurand was amongst the first of the public men to espouse the anti-lottery crusade; the fight was sternly carried on and at the next Parliamentary Session an amendment was passed repealing the mis-