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Art Union  
Lotteries.  
Picayune  
Legislation.

The "Act to amend the Criminal Code as respects Lotteries," which passed its second reading in the Senate on 17th inst., has one provision which is a highly unreasonable restraint upon Art Unions. It forbids an Art Union from exchanging any work of art secured as a prize by a subscriber "for any other work of art of like nature." The object of this is a mystery. Suppose a subscriber wins a painting by the artist Mr. Maulstick, but would prefer another one marked of the same value painted by the same artist, why should not the exchange be made? Why should the Senate and the House of Commons and the Governor General be bothered with an Act of Parliament to fetter a man's choice of a picture? Time might be better spent than drafting and discussing and passing such picayune acts through the legislature.

In Sweden practically every home has its private 'phone. In addition to this, the public service is so thoroughly accessible that it is cheaper than writing. In Stockholm, for instance, there is a public telephone at almost every street corner, and before every restaurant, hotel, place of amusement, cab stand, etc. Besides these, there are hundreds of closed pavilions, made of glass, upon the tops of which are the city lights. They open automatically by the insertion of a coin, which also pays for the service, and are available at any hour of the day or night. In these things Sweden is not eccentric, but simply advanced. Every city in America will yet follow her example is remarked by a contemporary whose prophetic powers we doubt.

The advance has its serious drawbacks. A 'phone in every house must lead to a great waste of time in gossiping. Unless needed for business purposes, a house-phone is apt to be a nuisance. As to having a telephone at street corners, one wonders what

people are coming to that they cannot exist without helling to somebody every few minutes. The perpetual ringing of telephone bells is becoming intolerable in business offices, a large proportion of the messages being trivial and many of them impertinent interferences with a business man's time and quietude. It is assumed by many, who have the telephone mania, that every business man has his ear to the receiver all the time ready for their call, so impatient are they if not answered instantly. There is a well-defined mental disease said by the medical faculty to be making its appearance which is produced and manifested by such an inordinate craze for telephoning as indicates a morbid irritation of the brain. The telephone is now indispensable, it is a great time saver, an invaluable convenience, but it is very grossly abused by some whose tongues seem to have a touch of St. Vitus Dance.

Stock Transfer  
Case.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has just delivered a judgment of considerable importance to all who have transactions in shares. The suit was the Corporation of Sheffield vs. Barclay and others.

The case turned upon the responsibility of the transferee of shares when the transfer proves to have been a forgery. Certain brokers advanced money on shares to whom they were transferred. In due course the transfer was sent to the company whose shares were being dealt in with a request to have the transfer registered in the name of one of the firm of brokers and certificates sent accordingly. This request was complied with. It became known that the transfer was forged, when the owners sued the company to obtain a correction of the stock register and to recover the value of these shares fraudulently transferred. The company was compelled to reimburse the real owners, and the person was sued from whom the forged