

nine-tenths of the States of the United States have made dishonest promotion more difficult and less profitable than it used to be. The result is that the vendors of these wares find a ready market in those of our Provinces which have no such legislation. And this situation has been intensified as other Provinces and States have passed legislation. It may be noted that another Province and several additional States are preparing to introduce a measure of this kind.

Certain evils in connection with fraudulent promotion and stock selling cannot be met by any enactment within the authority of a Provincial Legislature. These are the use of the mails and advertisements in newspapers and periodicals. Only Dominion legislation can prevent letters or circulars from being sent through the mails from a Province where no such legislation is in force into a Province or State where there is legislation. Similarly, stock may be sold by means of advertisements in newspapers circulated in a Province which has such legislation although the newspapers are published outside the Province.

The situation seems to call for a remedy. Whether or not the Bill recently introduced will provide such remedy remains to be seen. It should at least be given a trial. If found wanting it can be repealed, but if it is found to be productive of good results, it can be strengthened, if necessary. It has never been supposed that legislation can cure all the evils aimed at, but if a large amount of money is saved to the public the legislation will have been worth while. The legal profession is the best qualified to criticise the proposed legislation, to point out the difficulties, and to suggest the remedies.

Whether or not the Bill now before the Legislature will become law rests with that body, but whatever the outcome may be, the signs of the times would seem to indicate that some form of this legislation must, sooner or later, be enacted.

A. H. O'BRIEN.

---

The above article was written by Mr. A. H. O'Brien, M.A., formerly Law Clerk of the House of Commons and Counsel to the Speaker. He was specially retained by the Ontario