

as the Province of Alberta is concerned, I have not heard of any difficulty in the financing of hospitals; but it is said that it is necessary to create an additional source of revenue for such institutions in British Columbia.

There are two particular reasons why I cannot support the measure. In the first place, I am told that in Ireland a number of hospitals have refused to take proceeds from sweepstakes, on the ground that anything gained thereby would be more than offset by the loss of voluntary contributions and bequests. Secondly, so far as I know, when this Bill was up for consideration last year it did not receive any editorial support, although it was the subject of a good deal of comment by both the secular and the religious press of the country. I happen to have in my desk an editorial from the Winnipeg Tribune of May 11, 1931, which is perhaps a very good example of how the measure was regarded by the press. It reads in part:

Irish hospital lotteries won a certain measure of approbation because they seemed to be a device for getting the people of England to support the Irish hospitals. This droll and typically Irish touch of poetic justice succeeded very well, but there is such a thing as carrying a joke too far. The British race, and Canadians in particular, are too wise to adopt the lottery as a permanent institution. We have to cope with enough degrading and demoralizing influences without setting up any new ones.

In reply to my honourable friend from Vancouver (Hon. Mr. McRae) let me say that in my opinion there are plenty of ways in which we may find an outlet for our gambling instincts without tying them up to hospitals or similar institutions. When my honourable friend intimates that he is speaking for a majority of the people I think he is perhaps taking in too wide a circle. To continue reading:

The immediate plea for the Senate Bill is that it will rescue the hospitals of British Columbia, which are said to be in a bad way financially. The answer to that plea is that the lottery is a very expensive way to support a hospital. The hospital gets only a few cents out of the ticket-buyer's dollar. The lion's share is absorbed by selling costs.

Adoption of the scheme by British Columbia would mean that the people of the other provinces would be exploited.

Of course, the present Bill seeks to overcome that objection, but the people of the other provinces would be exploited nevertheless, although illegally.

The other provinces would be almost compelled, in self-protection, to adopt the scheme for themselves. The lottery appeals to a certain type of practical politician as a means of reducing taxation. It is only a step from liquor

Hon. Mr. MICHENER.

profits and race-track rake-offs to a state lottery. All of these are open to the same objection: they absorb a great deal of money from the public, and return only a slight percentage to the public treasury. Canada, in a period of depression, should be, and as a matter of fact is moving in the opposite direction. It is a time when our most important task is to make the most efficient use of what we have, instead of squandering it in childish, costly and sordid delusions.

Does any honourable member imagine that this Bill would pass in another place? I think we all realize that it would not. Then why should we pass it here and call down upon this House a Dominion-wide criticism in the press, which would dub us a reactionary body? Why should we put a club into the hands of our enemies? For we have enemies, some of whom are editors of papers, and it seems to me that to pass this measure in the Senate would be playing into their hands. For the reasons mentioned, honourable senators, I intend to vote against the measure.

Hon. J. H. KING: Honourable senators, I hesitate to continue this debate, but I intend to be brief. I should be disposed to support any fair measure which would result in additional revenue for our hospitals, provided we had the assurance that the revenue would be permanent. But I do not find any such assurance in this measure. The public hospitals of Canada have become great institutions in their respective communities. In recent years there has been an entire change of public attitude towards hospitals and their services. Some thirty or forty years ago these institutions were used principally by persons suffering from incurable diseases or ailments requiring urgent surgical attention. To-day these places have become human workshops to which people resort for the cure or relief of countless ills and frailties, of a minor as well as of a serious character. These institutions have become so important to the public generally that it has been necessary for all municipal and provincial governments to subsidize and support them. The greatest hospital service in Canada to-day is maintained by the Dominion Government. During and following the War it was necessary to establish hospital units throughout Canada to take care of those who suffered war casualties. That service has grown to be a very large one, providing treatment in the hospitals for some three thousand or more patients every day in the year, in addition to rendering other services outside. Although the housing is not all that one would like it to be, the service is well maintained, the staff well officered, and the work being done is, I think, a credit to the Department, to the