

sweepstake ticket than I do out of almost anything else in life. I enjoy all the pleasures of anticipation; and if I lose, I lose cheerfully. I take a chance, as does everyone else who buys a sweepstake ticket. There are millions of persons just like myself in this respect, and I suppose if we did not spend our money in this way we might waste it on something perhaps not half as good.

In my opinion the proposal contained in the Bill is a reasonable proposal. Of course, in the background is the question whether this Parliament really has power to oust provincial jurisdiction in the matter. That is a constitutional question which I would refer to my honourable friend from Regina (Hon. Mr. Laird), who is known to be an authority on such matters. All this Bill purports to do is to place on the Government of any of the provinces the responsibility of deciding whether or not sweepstakes shall be conducted within its jurisdiction. Ordinarily we are willing to trust the discretion of the provincial governments. Certainly the provincial electorate have shown their confidence in their representatives. So why should we hesitate to empower any provincial government to say yea or nay in regard to the conduct of sweepstakes within its boundaries? I am quite satisfied to leave the provinces to decide the question for themselves.

Some objection has been urged against the Bill on the ground that only a small percentage of the proceeds of the Irish sweepstakes reaches member-hospitals of the Irish Hospitals Trust. But it must be borne in mind that the Bill gives the respective provincial governments entire control in regard to what percentage of the proceeds shall be devoted to prizes and to cost of management and what proportion shall be paid over to the public institutions intended to be benefited, and therefore we are not to assume that only one per cent or five per cent of the proceeds will be devoted to charitable purposes. As a matter of fact, any provincial government may stipulate that fifty or even seventy-five per cent of the proceeds shall be turned over to the hospitals and that only a relatively small percentage shall be awarded to the ticket-holders in the form of prizes. In a word, the Bill clothes the provincial authorities with absolute power in the matter.

So, on the whole, I am satisfied to vote for this Bill.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: Why pass it every year if there is no chance of its getting through the House of Commons?

Hon. Mr. TANNER: Why? Because perseverance is the thing. By persevering we

Hon. Mr. TANNER.

may be able to drive common sense into obtuse minds. See how long we struggled in this House before we succeeded—thanks to the efforts of the honourable senator from Winnipeg (Hon. Mr. McMeans)—in getting a Court of Criminal Appeals erected in Canada. Year after year the House of Commons threw out the Bill for that purpose, but finally common sense prevailed and the Bill became law.

The holding of lotteries is to be optional with the provinces. A similar principle is already embodied in the Criminal Code of the country. There we provide that at the option of a municipal authority in any part of Canada a lottery may be held for religious or philanthropic purposes. In the city, in the town, in the municipality, you can set up a lottery.

The only thing I ever won at a lottery in my life was a picture of my noble friend, long deceased, Daniel O'Connell, and I won it at a church entertainment by throwing dice.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. TANNER: I never felt any the worse for that. I have that picture yet. Afterwards, when looking at the magnificent monument of Daniel O'Connell in Dublin, I was glad to think I had a picture of him at home.

The principle of local option is settled right in our statutes to-day. If it is wrong to let a provincial government institute a lottery in a province, surely it is just as wrong to let a municipal council do so. If we are wrong once we are wrong twice; and if we are right once we should be right twice. The principle has been embodied in our statutes for many years, and all we are proposing now is to enlarge that principle, making it applicable to a province, and to leave the matter with the provincial government.

Any honourable member can go to Toronto, Montreal, or any other part of this country where there are horse-races and pari mutuels, and, in pursuance of the law passed by this Parliament in 1912, can spend all the money he chooses in gambling, and can buy as many tickets on the horses as he likes. Is that right or is it wrong? Are we all wrong about this thing? I see men, women and children buying tickets at these race-courses. Is it wrong or is it right?

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: Wrong!

Hon. Mr. TANNER: We have made it right by providing for it in the law; and, to add to the effulgence of this thing, governments come along and say, "Give us a slice of the proceeds."