

Hon. Mr. MARCOTTE: It is a Government Bill, of the Legislature of the province of Quebec.

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX: By whom was it introduced?

Hon. Mr. MARCOTTE: Nobody will question the fact that the Attorney-General for the province of Quebec knows of the existence of our Criminal Code. What is coming I leave to you to guess. There is no denying the fact that the demand of the public for government lotteries is steadily growing.

Let us come to the present Bill. There is one feature of it that I do not like. It makes the lottery a provincial affair, limited to the boundaries of any province. The Quebec bill also is provincial in nature, but there is no mention of the territorial limits. You will have a multiplicity of lotteries. We are able to foresee the difficulties created by the very clauses of the Bill.

The main objection to the many lotteries which are bound to come into existence is the matter of expenses. There will be different forms of management, and numerous employees, as well as salaries and commissions, and printing and advertising expenses to be paid. These will tend to reduce greatly the share allotted to hospitals or universities. This is confirmed by the report of the English Commission on Lotteries. It will also provide facilities for frauds.

I should like to see the Federal Government take control of a national lottery, which could be called National Relief Works Lottery. Then there would be only one lottery, the aim of which would be to give work to our people by a distribution among the provinces of public works, more especially those calling for manual labour. In this way employment would be given in the place of direct relief. Much has been said about the necessity of giving our people work to do. Unemployment has been deplored, especially in the case of our young people. Work is desired, but the obstacle is lack of funds. Here is a way to secure the necessary money without burdening our budget, which already is heavily loaded. This lottery would be under the control of either the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Labour. Instead of sweepstakes, depending on the results of races abroad, drawings of lots could be made, say four times a year, or oftener if desired, on fixed dates.

The printing of tickets, advertising cards, pamphlets or any necessary literature could be done by the Government Printing Bureau. The tickets could be distributed through our post offices. Tickets would be bought and

sold like stamps, postal notes or money orders, and the postmasters would be the selling and collecting agents.

As there would be only one lottery of an official character, the drawing being under the control of the Government, the tickets would be well known and there would be no danger of fraud.

In this way a multiplicity of lotteries would be avoided. There would be no great costs for salaries, publicity, commission on sales or collections. These being reduced to a minimum, the share of the Government would be larger, and the beneficiaries would be not the winners of the lottery, but the workers at large.

This would not cost the Government or the country one cent, and here is the reason. Fixing the price of a ticket at one dollar and the share of the Government at twenty-five per cent—basing the amount of business on results obtained in France, Italy, and Ireland, not to mention other countries—I submit we may fairly estimate the share of the Government at a minimum of six millions a year. Six millions would be amply sufficient to guarantee the interest and sinking fund on a special loan of \$50,000,000. The interest at four per cent would amount to \$2,000,000, and \$4,000,000 annually would form a sinking fund, so that the whole sum would be paid off in a few years. If we believe that general conditions are improving, the spending of fifty million dollars on special public works throughout the country would give employment to those classes of labour which are in need of work, and be of immense benefit generally.

Each ticket should bear, as it were, a cheque stamp of three cents. This would pay the cost of printing the tickets and the necessary literature. Postmasters would make no charge for selling and collecting these tickets, this being their contribution to the national relief, or if it were deemed desirable they could be paid through the sale of the stamps.

It has been stated and written that this sort of gambling would tax the poorer classes by inducing them to part with their little spare money to buy tickets. Even so, it would be to their benefit, for those who did not win a prize would get work and wages—something far more important than a lottery-winning ticket.

Every winning ticket could be taxed five per cent or more on the amount so won, this sum to go to the Income Tax Department.

Any excess profits over the amount necessary for payment of interest and funded debt could be applied by the Government to assist hospitals and universities, or otherwise.