THE LOTTERY EVIL

...IN THE...

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

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THE LOTTERY EVIL

IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

Dear Sir,

The magnitude of the lottery evil in Montreal has drawn the attention of the best classes of the population to the matter, with a view that it may be stamped out.

At the present time an active campaign is being waged against the evil; a case is being fought in the courts, and hostile petitions are being circulated, and have been numerously signed. These petitions and others of the same purport. formally endorsed by the labor-organization known as the Knights of Labor, have been presented to Parliament at its present session. They ask that the law be amended so that developments such as are now in evidence shall be impossible; that the lottery features shall be eliminated, and that in short the authorization of the law be withdrawn from enterprises which have sprung up, but which were never in contemplation by the law-makers of this country. These Art Unions flourishing in Montreal can be shown to be nothing more or less than lotteries of the worst type. The sworn evidence already adduced in the courts in this city, and the facts set forth in the subjoined newspaper articles, clearly demonstrate that in the actual working of the Art Unions. practices have been introduced of a distinctly illegal nature.

Apart, however, from the legal aspect of the case, there is the moral side, which invites the closest attention.

These lotteries are a drain upon the resources of the poorer classes of the population of Canada. This class, more than any other, is tempted by the prospect of what to them is considered a fortune, in winning the larger prizes. Money is constantly and consistently squandered in the pursuit of prizes seldom won.

The magnitude of the evil is presented in the accompanying table, compiled by the Montreal Star, after its editors had made a painstaking and exact calculation of the conditions:—

A FEW LOTTERY AND POLICY STATISTICS.

Montreal has three lotteries and four policy establishments.
Each year there are at least 110 lottery drawings.
Each year there are 2,304 policy drawing.
The people contribute to the lotteries annually some $2,400,000.
Of this sum perhaps half is given back in prizes.
6,000,000 of policy tickets are sold every year to people who pay from ten cents to one dollar apiece for them, and now a charter has been granted for still another lottery.

From the Montreal papers also has been taken a correct description of the various methods of gambling practiced by these so-called Art Unions.

LOTTERIES IN THE STATES.

The experience of the United States with lottery enterprises—and it cannot be said that the establishments in Montreal are anything else—is both interesting and instructive to recall. For the purpose of illustration, the case of the Kentucky Lottery may be chosen.

When that concern was fighting for its life in the courts of that State, and when, finally, the illegality of its existence was shown in a judgment in the Court of Appeals, the deliverance was accompanied by this opinion:

. . . . "a privilege which tends to foster and encourage a spirit of gaming; is productive of injury to the people of the Commonwealth, and is against common right."

On September 23, 1880, Hon. P. W. Hardin, Attorney-General for the State of Kentucky, in a letter to Mr. Anthony Comstock, post-office inspector, New York, said of the Kentucky Lottery:—

"Under the guise of a charity, and the pretext of a legal sanction, it robs the poor, and allures with false hopes, and leads to ruin both young and old. It is against public policy and public morals."

The Supreme Court of the United States is on record against lotteries even more emphatically. In the case of the People vs. Stone (an appeal from Mississippi Courts) the Court of last resort in the United States held "that lotteries are demoralizing in their effects, *no matter how carefully regulated.*"

And again, in the same case it was adjudged:—

"They (lotteries) are a species of gambling and wrong in their influences. They disturb the checks and balances of a well-ordered community. Society built on such a foundation would almost of necessity bring forth a population of speculators and gamblers, living on the expectation of what chance might award them from the accumulation of others. Certainly the right to stop them is governmental, *and to be exercised at all times by those in power* at their discretion.

"Any one, therefore, who accepts a lottery charter does so with the implied understanding that the people in their sovereign capacity and through their properly constituted authorities may take it back at any time, when the public good shall require, and this whether it be paid for or not."

THE DUTY OF CANADA.

How much more, then, would it be the duty of a government or of parliament, in view of the last utterance, to repeal a charter not obtained expressly for a lottery; but which has been so prostituted that all the evil conditions noted in the judgments cited apply to the practical opera-

tions under such a charter of these so-called Art Unions now doing business in Montreal.

The Louisiana Lottery of the United States died a natural death at the expiration of its State charter; and its term of existence evolved such evil results that no power could be procured to extend it, even by attempted purchase at exorbitant figures.

To-day the mails of the United States are closed against any lottery enterprise. Papers from Canada, containing lists of such drawings as are specially exempt in the Province of Quebec may not legally be sent through the American mails.

If, after all its years of lottery experience, the United States Courts and the United States authorities deem it essential, wise and for the well-being of the nation to sternly repress all lottery enterprises, it ill becomes Canada—where, rightly or wrongfully, the impression prevails that our standard of public morals is higher—to tolerate a universally admitted evil, or to extend any legislative sanction whatever to any schemes which may be and in Montreal are now being worked out to supply all the evil conditions attaching to a regularly constituted and openly conducted lottery institution.

LOTTERIES.

(From the Montreal Daily Witness, Oct. 31, 1898.)

The ice cream man, instead of selling his dainty at a cent a cup to the newsboy, tosses a cent with him, giving him two cups if he wins, and nothing if he loses. The raffling of second-hand bicycles brings many into touch with gambling, as an average of over a hundred tickets are sold for every bike so disposed of, and more than the hundred are appealed to to buy. When no more is taken from the ticket buyers than what the article is worth, as is the case with ice cream, and, as may be the case with the bicycle, it is commonly called a square game, as the players in the ag-

gregate get the full value of their stakes, and the holder gets the value of his goods. To call it this, however, tends to obscure the essential immorality of the transaction. A man has no right to risk the money that he has in a game of chance or to receive what he gains thereby, and what he has in no way earned. Men, however, do not, as a rule, trouble themselves about such abstract principles, they only see that games of chance create in men a passion for more and deeper play, which ruins men's lives. If a man wins at first he wants more; if he loses at first he counts that with fair play and average luck; he has only paid for a better chance of winning the next venture. This last conclusion, of course, is fallacious, for the fact that a penny may have come down heads five times in succession can have no influence over its twistings on the next throw, and another head is as likely to be turned up as is a tail. Besides this fatuous hope there is the pleasurable excitement stimulated by the possibility of great gain, only for short intervals counteracted by the depressing thought of possible loss. For the young gambler, at least, has the power of almost entirely casting to the winds such thoughts by dreams of an enormous fortune. This excitement grows on the gambler till it not only stimulates his thought, but entirely engrosses it. The confirmed gambler or speculator loses the ability to work regularly for small gain, as he has not only lost the habit of work, but has gained and lost large sums of money so easily that it seems as if honest work was a hopelessly slow way to fortune.

The monthly lottery of the Royal Canadian Art Union, Limited, has just come into prominence through the arrest of those who carry it on, on the charge of keeping a gambling house. The largeness and frequency of its announced transactions show what a vast influence such an institution can have, not only over a single city, but over vast regions of country. So general is the knowledge of the evil effect of a lottery upon a community that they are prohibited by the gambling laws of nearly all countries. Monte Carlo

is now the only open gambling hell. Bookmakers have been allowed at horse races, as it is thought the betting encouraged racing, and so better the breed of horses. Betting debts, however, are not recognized by law, and cannot be legally collected. To encourage art in Quebec art lotteries have been legalized by the Federal Government, that is, lotteries in which the prizes are works of art. Hence the Royal Canadian Art Union. At its monthly drawings this union offers works of art to the value of $48,000. Each of these pictures is held at a certain price, and the winner can either take the picture or sell it to the concern at the value marked on it. Imagine a hundred thousand dollars a month, over a million dollars a year, being spent in Montreal on works of art! Would not our community soon become well endowed in that respect? Needless to say, the pictures are seldom called for, and a mere money lottery is the result. Art can do nothing to ennoble the vicious principles of the lottery, and to associate the two can only degrade art, and the community which on such a subterfuge legalizes an evil. In like manner religion is not only dishonored, but degraded to the gamblers' standard, when used as an excuse and cloak for gambling, as is so often done at church fairs by fish-pools, lotteries and tombolas. It is for those who dishonor art and religion by making exceptions to the law, which accept them as excuses for a vice, so to amend the law as to prevent this excuse from rendering nugatory the whole law.

It is interesting to consider this monthly drawing as a money speculation. Every month tickets are put on sale to a value of one hundred thousand dollars, and every month prizes to the value of forty-eight thousand dollars are distributed. This gives a profit of fifty thousand dollars to the concern every month, of which the customers are deprived. On an even bet the chances of winning are one in four. Or, in other words, it is as if one should bet two dollars to one that a cent when tossed would land heads. The oftener one bets and the larger the amount staked the

more certain the loss. In this lottery there are four capital prizes of $1,000, $2,000, $4,000, and $10,000, respectively. These, indeed, look tempting. Think what day dreams the poor boy or girl can build on a fortune of ten thousand dollars. Now consider his chances of winning such a prize. It would take one hundred thousand months, or eight thousand three hundred and thirty-three years, steadily paying in a dollar a month to make the payer's chance of getting the ten thousand dollars' prize as good as his chance of not getting it and then there would be as good a chance of not getting it as of getting it. In other words, he would have to pay in a hundred thousand dollars and suffer anxiety for more time than the world has lasted before he would have had as good a chance of getting that prize as of losing it.

(From the Montreal Daily Star, Nov. 1, 1898.)

The Royal Art Union at 238 and 240 St. James street, despite the proceedings taken by Mr. John A. Grose on Saturday, is again doing business.

It fact, it went on as usual on Monday. That was the day of the monthly drawing, when some $50,000 worth of "works of art" are distributed.

It is stated that the wheels, returned to the officials of the Art Union, were put in possession of the lottery people without the consent of Mr. R. C. Smith, the lawyer for the prosecution.

PROSECUTION NOT CONSULTED.

"This is the most extraordinary proceeding I ever heard of," said Mr. F. H. Markey, of the firm of Smith & Markey, who have the conduct of the case for the prosecution, to a Star reporter this morning. "We know absolutely nothing about the application until we saw the statement in the Star last evening. Such a thing was never done before,

and I cannot imagine that these machines have been parted with by the authorities. In a recent case against the bucket shop keepers the defence fought hard to have the books of the business, which had been seized by the authorities, returned, alleging that, unless they were returned it would effectually stop them conducting their business. The Magistrate in that case absolutely refused to entertain the application, and the books and papers of the bucket shop keepers were kept in court for two or three weeks, and were only returned when the proceedings were dismissed. In this case, it appears that these lottery instruments have been returned to the defendants on an ex parte application, when the prosecution was not heard."

In order to show how widespread is the lottery and policy business in Montreal, these facts aid in arriving at an understanding.

A FEW LOTTERY AND POLICY STATISTICS.

Montreal has three lottery and four "policy" establishments.

Each year there are 2,504 policy drawings.

Each year there are at least a hundred and ten lottery drawings.

The people contribute to the lotteries annually some $2,460,000.

Of this sum perhaps half is given back in prizes.

Six millions of policy tickets are sold every year to people who pay from ten cents to a dollar a piece for them.

And now a charter has been granted for still another lottery.

The methods pursued by the Royal Art Union have been fully described in the Star. There are a number of other places where similar drawings are conducted. Montreal's full list of lottery establishments, all doing business under federal and provincial charters, is as follows:

The Society of Arts of Canada at 1666 and 1668 Notre

Dame Street. Drawings weekly and monthly—Lottery.

The Royal Art Union at 238 and 240 St. James Street. Drawings daily and monthly—Lottery and policy.

The Promotive of Arts Association, 48 St. Lawrence Street. Drawings daily, weekly and monthly—Lottery and policy.

The Canadian Artistic Society, Limited, Craig Street, near the corner of St. Lawrence Street. Drawings daily—Policy.

Societe des Ecoles Gratuites des Enfants Pauvres, 80 St. Lawrence Street. Drawings daily—Policy.

The Colonial Art Company. Just incorporated and not in operation.

The lotteries on Notre Dame and St. Lawrence streets are run much on the same principle, but there is greater elegance about the one on Notre Dame street, where the weekly and monthly drawings are held at 3.30 p.m., on Wednesday. In the course of visits to all the establishments mentioned, a Star reporter bought a ten cent ticket for the weekly drawing at The Society of Arts of Canada, at 1666 and 1668 Notre Dame street. At half past three he wandered into the establishment, and found a number of people roaming around with ill-disguised impatience looking at the really valuable paintings, which are displayed on the three flats that comprise the company's premises. In this establishment an effort has been made to make things look as they would be expected to look in a place which is devoted first to art, and, secondly, fostering a taste for art, by drawings of pictures. It is about the only place of its kind where such care is taken, and a number of the paintings are well worth seeing. At a little after half past three, the little door which barred the stairs was opened, and the crowd streamed up. It was, as it is in every one of these places mentioned, a most miscellaneous gathering, in which well-known citizens were cheek by jowl with some of the toughest specimens of humanity known in the city. As a rule, they were very self-possessed, and

with the exception of one or two youngsters, apparently did not care a cent as to whether they won or not. Chairs, in regular rows, occupied the greater part of the room, and in the empty space left at the end stood a table, at which sat a youth, a young lady, and a man of middle age, all connected with the establishment evidently, and two such well-known citizens as Mr. E. J. Major, of the Major Manufacturing Company, and Viscount H. de La Barthe. The youth was engaged in twirling the dials that enumerated the lucky numbers, Mr. Major called these out in English, and Viscount de la Barthe in French, and the two other people were engaged in registering them. The drawing apparatus consisted of five nickel stands. Each had a revolving wheel and a stationary index point. Each wheel carried numbers from one to zero, so that in all they could announce as high as 99999. Only 331 numbers are drawn, however, for that represents the number of prizes offered. First, a hundred prizes of five dollars each are drawn, and these are awarded to the first hundred numbers indicated by the dials. Then the two thousand dollar prize is drawn by the next number indicated, and then a series of small prizes is drawn again, and so on. In addition to these there are 2,690 approximation prizes of two or three dollars each. That is: 100 prizes of three dollars are given for the fifty numbers above and the fifty numbers below the number that wins the first capital prize.

One hundred prizes of two dollars are given for the fifty numbers above and the fifty numbers below the number winning the second capital prize. Five hundred prizes of two dollars are given to the 250 numbers above and the 250 numbers below the number winning the third capital prize. Nine hundred and ninety-nine prizes of two dollars are given for the numbers finishing with the last two figures of the number winning the first capital prize. Nine hundred and ninety-nine prizes of two dollars for the numbers ending with the last two figures of the number winning the

second capital prize. How much money the promoters of this lottery may make out of it may be figured out when it is considered that, in addition to the chances they have of not having the big prizes come out, they find solace in a rule of their own making, which reads: "A winning scrip, when exchanged for others in a coming distribution, is accepted for half of the value of the prize." This practically means, as every one wants to exchange the scrip for money value, that only fifty per cent. of the face value of the prizes announced is paid to their winners. But the winner is entitled to a picture or a number of pictures said to represent the value of the prize drawn. The company announces 3,029 prizes of an aggregate value of $10,066, when in reality they only make themselves liable in cash for $5,033. At this rate, should all of their 100,000 ten-cent tickets be sold for each drawing, and the usual custom of cashing winning tickets be followed, they would make $5,000 each drawing, less the expenses for running the enterprise. However, if they do not sell them all, they run a chance of keeping some of their capital prizes.

The following circular is sent out by the company, of which Mr. H. A. A. Brault is managing director:

NOTICE.

"To disseminate the taste for arts in Canada and make the works of artists popular, it was not sufficient to exhibit such works, however fine and rich they might be, but it also became necessary to spread these productions throughout the country.

"The problem to be solved was to reduce the cost of the paintings to the lowest possible figure.

"This was an easy matter for the Society of Arts. Being placed in special and altogether exceptional circumstances, it was in a position to obtain from its artist members assurance that their paintings should be offered at comparatively low prices.

"Moreover, it placed its picture galleries within the reach of all.

"Every one has not hundreds of thousands of dollars to afford himself the luxury of a painting by a master in the art, but what cannot be done individually can be accomplished by means of an association.

"Now the law allows societies of this kind to make distributions of paintings and drawings, by lot. Any distribution by lot among the members or ticket holders of any incorporated society established for the encouragment of art, of any paintings, drawings, or other works of art, produced by the labour of the members of, or published by or under the direction of such incorporated society. (Federal Statutes.)

"The society, from time to time, makes such distributions, to the success of which the public will no doubt be eager to contribute for the paltry sum of 10 cents. Each subscriber is given a scrip which not only entitles him to compete in the distribution, but will also give him the privilege to purchase paintings at a reduction of 5 per cent. on the prices fixed by the society, should the holder of such scrip come out with a blank in the drawing.

"The holder of a scrip entitling him to one or more paintings has the privilege to make himself the choice of his paintings. For instance, a person to the lot of whom falls a $2,000 painting will not only have the choice between the $2,000 disposable paintings, but can also, if he prefers, make a selection of different paintings to the extent of $2,000.

"There are among the members of the Society of Arts, artists whose fame must some day become very great. Over sixty among them have been exhibitors at the Salons of the Champ Elysees and the Champ-de-Mars, several have obtained the highest honours, are knights of the Legion of Honour, medallists and hors concours."

The Society of Art of Canada has a school of drawing and painting, where lessons are given free. This school opens

for the season on November 8. The demand of admission to this school must be personally presented.

ON THE MAIN STREET.

A ticket was also taken in the "Promotive of Arts Association," at 48 St. Lawrence street. This, in addition to a lottery, runs also a "policy game" twice a day. The surroundings are not nearly as nice as those on Notre Dame street, and the pictures are not so artistic. The way of drawing is almost similar to that of the first-named place, only the discs containing the numbers are attached to one stand, and they are made to circulate by means of a lever, which is drawn by a small boy. The crowd here was not so select as that present on Notre Dame street. The gentlemen who acted for the people of the country, and watched the numbers as they came, were Messrs. J. H. Walker, agent, and E. P. Martineau, merchant. The number of prizes offered is similar to that of the Society of Arts, but in this case it is more evenly divided between the direct prizes and the approximation prizes, and the drawing takes longer. The total amount of the prizes they offer is just half of that offered by the Society of Arts: They also put out at every drawing $10,000 worth of tickets. Four thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine dollars is the sum which they give back for the $10,000 they receive each week from the lottery, if all the tickets be sold. Out of the remainder of $5,000, they have to pay expenses.

The Promotive of Arts Association weekly drawing takes place every Wednesday afternoon.

The "policy" is worked on the same system that is used at other places. The ticket which is given the purchaser is, save in the title, the same as that given by the Royal Art Union, bears exactly the same working, and states that the association was incorporated by Letters Patent, Oct. 7th, 1896.

Tickets are sold by a lady at a counter to the left of the entrance. At the end of the office there is a long, low

room where the agents sit, just previous to the drawings. They occupy the tables, and every visitor is solicited to buy a ticket. The prices of these tickets range from five cents upward. When the time for the drawings approaches, a man who appears to be of some authority in the place goes to each of the agents and hands him an envelope. The agents make up their lists and enclose their returns in the envelopes. At the back of this room, which can also be entered from St. Charles Borromee street, is a stairway leading up-stairs.

It is in this up-stairs room that the "policy" drawings take place. The room is not exactly a model of cleanliness. The front is railed off, and behind the railing is a table with the wheel containing seventy-eight numbers. The drawings take place at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and 8 o'clock in the evening.

MUSIC IN THIS.

The Canadian Artistic Society, Limited, does business on Craig street, near St. Lawrence, and has presumably for its object the promotion of music as well as art. The business of the Society is transacted in the same manner as at the other places. There is an office down-stairs for the sale of tickets and a place for the use of the agents. The drawings take place here twice daily, at 12.30 in the afternoon and at 7.30 in the evening.

The drawings take place in the same manner as the usual "policy" game by means of a large hollow wheel, with a glass side and little rolls with printed numbers. These are taken from the wheel by a boy who has been blindfolded. The result of each draw from the wheel is announced aloud by the operator of the wheel and is posted up by an assistant.

The ticket which is given the purchaser is similar to that given by the other establishments, with the exception of the first paragraph, which mentions "musical instruments" instead of "works of art."

According to the ticket the Society has been incorporated by letters patent, December 24, 1894.

This establishment does a very large business. The prizes are slightly higher than at the other places, but the agents complain that they are not given such a high percentage as the other "policy-shops" give.

There is yet another "policy shop." This one is situated at 80 St. Lawrence street, just above Vitre street, and is known as the "Societe des Ecoles Gratuites des Enfants Pauvres," which lengthy title being translated means that the object of this institution is to provide free schools for poor children.

This place does a large business, and has a large class of patrons principally from among the labouring classes. The principal drawing takes place at half-past eight o'clock every evening, and is attended by a large gathering.

The price of the tickets range from five cents to one dollar, and the prices are about the same as the other places.

The Society occupies a large flat, and the room in which the drawing takes place is often taxed to its utmost capacity in order to accommodate those who attend. Unlike the other places of a like nature, this Society does not have a lottery attached, and the business is confined to a straight "policy game."

That there is quite an income to be had in the sale of the various lottery tickets is shown by the enterprise of a man who has opened a store on St. Catherine street, near St. Lawrence street, the sole object of which is the sale of the tickets for the various lotteries and "policy" games. Here can be obtained tickets for every game and every drawing, and the proprietor appears to be making a comfortable revenue from this source.

OPINIONS ON LOTTERIES.

Mr. J. Cradock Simpson spoke as follows: "The lottery evil as it exists in this city is demoralizing in the extreme. Under the pretence of fostering and encouraging the love

of art among our citizens, these societies and unions carry on a gambling business pure and simple. The pictures and works of art which they appraise at a very high value are not in reality worth one-quarter of that sum, and as a rule the successful ticket-holders do not care to carry them away. In case they do not want the picture or statue, then they are given the option of accepting half the face value of what their ticket has drawn in cash. Needless to say, very few people carry away the so-called works of art, when by going to another wicket they may obtain half its equivalent in ready cash. If these societies really wished to promote and encourage art in our midst, why do they not confine their operations to the simple offerings of pictures or other works of art as objects to be sought after? The fact that they offer money to the successful ticket-holder is proof enough to me that they are trying as much as possible to keep within the law and yet evade it. It is a good thing that they know they are being watched, and a raid now and then cannot but produce a wholesome effect."

MONTREAL'S LOTTERIES.

Public Opinion on Their Existence—The Return of Those Wheels.

(The Montreal Star, Nov. 5, 1898.)

The question of Montreal's lotteries is taking big place in the public mind just now, and much discussion is to be heard regarding these institutions.

The magnitude of the operations carried on, as revealed by the account in Monday night's Star, was a revelation to those of our citizens, unaware of how strong the passion for this particular game of chance becomes implanted in the breast of the lottery devotee.

The lottery devotee is willing to take long chances, provided he can win once in a while. A small sum won keeps him nibbling, looking for the capital prize. Of course he may never get it, and as a matter of fact, in the vast majority

of cases, doesn't. But hope springs eternal, and the investment is kept up, to the profit of the lotteryman, whose huge gains are made up of small sums, insignificant in themselves, but very large in the aggregate. It is a safe assumption, however, that many of the investors in the lottery tickets cannot afford this leak in their income, and a study of the places where they resort will convince one of this. There is a demoralizing tendency in the close pursuit of the fickle fortune which always seems tantalizingly at hand. That assertion applies to all regular participants in games of chance. It applies as much to the lottery devotee as to the persons choosing any other form of a gamble.

THE "SEIZED" WHEELS.

That any of the so-called drawing wheels seized on the premises of the Royal Art Union should be returned to them before a hearing of the case in the Police Court has aroused more than ordinary interest in all portions of the city. Discussion is heard on all sides in reference to this act of the Court. On the information of Mr. John A. Grose, chief of the Grose Secret Service, it will be remembered, seizure of the two wheels was made on the strength of a search warrant. It stated that to the belief of the complainant, certain wheels, lists of drawing cards, tickets, etc., more readily understood, were they named instruments of the trade, were in the rooms of the Art Union, St. James street, and requested in the interests of justice that they be seized. It was alleged that these were used for gambling. After a discussion of the facts the Police Magistrate affixed the signature of the Court and authorized the seizure. Friday afternoon, about five o'clock, and with the intention of preventing the drawings which were to take place an hour later, a clean sweep of the paraphernalia was made, and the evidences against them placed under lock and key with the High Constable at the Court House. Only a few hours afterwards, or to be more exact, at 1 p.m. on Sat-

urday, the largest of the said wheels was in its place again. The drawings came off that day, followed by one of the great events of the year, the October monthly drawing on Monday. Practically there was no cessation to these drawings, which the Court by authorizing the seizure acquiesced in the probability of their legality. Mr. Lafontaine, on the day of the return, said this step was taken by him at the request of Mr. Bickell, the manager, and Mr. Buchanan, to guard the city against possible loss. Yesterday he stated his reasons more fully. The fact of the seizure was to obtain evidence. The wheels, lists, cards, tickets, etc., had been brought before him, and their presence could not be denied. Mr. Grose took the responsibility. As to the fact that he had allowed Mr. Bickell to take back his wheel to carry on the same business which the Court was attempting to convict him on, Mr. Lafontaine said he had done this in what he considered the interests of the people themselves. He distinctly stated that the wheel had gone back for the big monthly drawing only. Mr. Bickell had pledged his word to return it at its conclusion. Had the tickets for this drawing not been previously sold by the Art Union people, he would not have given it to them. As it was, he held the people had bought tickets and would be prevented from drawing their prizes, and they, and not the company, which had already taken in the cash from their sale, would be the losers.

INTEREST IN LOTTERIES.

The number of people in this city who daily participate in the various "Policy" games, which are conducted here, would cause considerable surprise to any person who took the trouble to make an investigation. Of course, many people are very willing to make fortunes without any great effort on their part, hence any scheme for making "easy" money (i.e., gambling winnings) in sporting parlance, is generally well followed. Many young men employed in the

various business establishments down town indulge in a policy ticket daily. Playing this style of game has many advantages over the ordinary lottery; one does not have to wait very long to know the results of the drawings, and then again the prize sometimes gained for ten cents represents quite a good investment. However, one does not see all the people who play the game at the drawings; the attendance at the drawings merely represents a small proportion of those who have tickets in them. The majority of tickets are evidently sold at the many cigar stores which have them on sale. While all the tickets holders are not present at the drawings, yet there is always a goodly number present at every drawing in all of the "Policy Shops." A large attendance is to be found at the establishment known as "Societe des Ecoles Gratuites des Enfants Pauvres," which is at 80 St Lawrence street. Their drawings take place at nine o'clock every evening. The Main Street is quite a busy thorough fare at this hour, and the many promenaders include numbers who woo fortune. The drawings take place in a large room on the first floor, and is conducted in precisely the same manner as at the other places of a like nature. The only change is that a blindfolded man takes the numbers from the wheel instead of a boy.

The crowd at this place is a heterogeneous one, and includes all sorts and conditions of people. There is a fair sprinkling of well-dressed people; those new to the place look rather uncomfortable at being in such company, and those who have been there before regard everybody and everything with sang froid. Among those present is a large element of the labouring class, and these people are close followers of the game. It is possible to win $10 for a five cent ticket, and this appears quite alluring to the minds of the lower classes. There are always several colored men there. Your colored man is an enthusiastic "Policy" player, and not a day goes by that he does not have a ticket or so in some drawing.

It is an interesting sight to watch a drawing. Every chair in the big room is occupied, and the sides and ends of the room are filled with standing habitues of the place. Those in the back stand on their chairs so as to get a better view of the proceedings. When everything is ready, the sale of tickets is stopped and the drawing is proceeded with As the numbers are drawn they are announced in English and French. As the numbers come out there is a straining and a craning of necks to see what it is. No matter how many numbers a player has on his ticket, he always remembers them, and but seldom finds it necessary to look at his ticket during the drawing. There is very little movement during the drawing, and, indeed, to the players it represents a very serious business altogether. Occasionally some one will break out with some emotional exclamation if he has succeeded in winning, but he is generally a novice, and he soon learns to control his feelings when he wins or loses. It does not take very long for the drawing, and soon the people are streaming out of the hall. Then the agents begin selling the tickets for the next drawing, and the patrons are again buying.

It may probably surprise most people to know that there are a great many women who indulge in a flyer at this "policy" game, but it is nevertheless so. Of course, they are not to be seen at the drawings. They come to the head office in the morning or the early afternoon, but most of them purchase their tickets at the cigar stores. There is one woman who buys her ticket every day at a cigar store on St. Lawrence street, and she has had considerable luck in her trials, and has managed to win several good prizes out of the concern on St. Lawrence street. She is but one of the many, and the writer has seen many other women who come into this cigar store and purchase their tickets there.

The selection of numbers has been placed upon a scientific basis by the devotees of the "policy" game, and there is rhyme and reason in their minds for every number they select. Dreams are the most fruitful source of inspiration.

There are dream books for the player. These books tell the player what certain dreams mean, and what numbers to play after having dreamt of certain things. Some numbers are lucky at certain periods, and at other times valueless. Another means of selecting numbers is to play those numbers which one sees on coming out in the morning, house numbers, street car numbers, etc. Certain numbers are lucky in certain "policy shops." For instance, No. 1 and any number in the 70's are looked upon as winners in the Canadian Royal Art Union. In the Canadian Artistic Society 18 is looked upon as a very good number, and any number of the 40's. Some players make a study of the numbers, and watch when they come out. They argue that, according to the laws of chance, every number will come out at some time or another; anyway, it is bound to come out. By carefully keeping track of every drawing, and noting the numbers, they sometimes happen to select numbers within a few drawings. The steady "policy" seldom changes his numbers until he wins, and it is regarded as bad policy to change numbers until some of them have come out. Hence a player will play the same number for several days in succession.

OPINIONS ON LOTTERIES.

Mr. James Crathern, when asked his opinion of the lottery evil, upheld in two terse sentences; "I think it is bad for the community and bad for the individual. The lottery does not exist for the edification of the young, and should be suppressed."

MR. R. D. McGIBBON.

Mr. R. D. McGibbon, Q.C., vigourously denounced the lottery evil. He gave the *Star* reporter a *resume* of the steps taken by the late Provincial Government to close up all the "art" establishments which were not conducting their business of strictly legitimate lines. As a result, a

great many of the concerns at present doing a flourishing business were raided and suppressed. But, owing to a failure on the part of the Government to support Mr. Desnoyers' judgment, the adverse decision of the lower court was reversed in appeal, and the "art unions" were enabled to open their doors once more. "These unions," said Mr. McGibbon, "are simply a subterfuge. They are nothing more or less than gambling concerns, and the Government should effectually suppress them once and for all. Their charter or permit from the Government does not allow them to carry on a lottery business, such as they are doing at present. They obtain their charters on the pretence that they wish to encourage art, and the law allows *bona fide* art unions to hold drawings by their members at stated intervals. But it does not give them the alternative of paying to the successful ticket holder the value of the picture he has drawn in cash. Neither does it provide for daily drawings. The whole affair is cleverly gotten up with a view to securing immunity from the punishment that would assuredly follow, if they proclaimed themselves to be lotteries. These unions have been suppressed on the other side of the border. Nowhere else on this continent, but in Quebec, are they to be found, and I do certainly think the Government should do something towards wiping them out.

"The effective remedy for the evil would be the amendment of the Criminal Code by the Dominion Parliament, by the passage of a law rendering all lotteries, except perhaps trifling drawings for charitable purposes of limited amounts, absolutely illegal. If the Minister of Justice were approached, he would doubtless recognize the evil and apply the remedy."

MR. ALEX. ROBERTSON.

Mr. Alex. Robertson, hatter and furrier, said that the sooner the lotteries were closed up the better it would be for the young men of the city. "As a rule," said he, "these

concerns are frequented by those in whom the gambling passion has been aroused. They do not patronize these Art Unions for art's sake, but for the money they can get out of them. Take away the cash inducement, and the membership of these art unions and societies would decrease at a very preceptible rate. It is the money alternative that increases the membership, and permits these organizations to do a rushing business. With that done away with, the charm of art would lose its hold upon nine-tenths of the purchasers of tickets. I certainly think the authorities either ought to sweep these unions and lotteries out of existence, or make them conduct their business on strictly honourable lines. To do that they must eliminate the very appearance of gambling."

THE LOTTERY SCANDAL.

The cheap lottery is the cruellest form of public bedevilment practiced in this day. It fattens on the earnings of the very classes which can least afford to lose the pittances they pay for seats at the table of fate. When the man of means or good salary "speculates," he may thereby write himself down anything but wise; but at all events he is not likely to suffer at once for the loss of his "stake." But to the errand boy who screws out his coppers to buy a lottery ticket, or the servant girl who divides her poor earnings with the management of a gaudy game of chance, the item is a big one; and the loss of the pitiable sums required may lead to petty peculation or worse.

The vigorous action taken by Mr. John A. Grose against the various lottery schemes which infest our streets has opened the eyes of most of us to the enormity of the evil in this city. It is estimated that the people are bled to the tune of nearly two millions and a half yearly to keep these institutions going, and that only something like half this sum is given back to them in "prizes." Here is fatness! Here is an easy way of making a fortune—a fortune collect-

ed out of pitiful dribblings from the wages of the very young and the very poor! The exposure of the state of affairs in Montreal raises a question as to whether we are not really worse off in this respect than that long commiserated New Orleans—a city whose name has become synonymous with lottery scandal the world over.

Great credit will be cheerfully accorded to Mr. Grose for his effective and public-spirited action. His course is calculated to save the leanest purses and to protect the most guileless, and to cleanse the name of Montreal from a shameful scandal. *Montreal Daily Star*, Nov. 3, 1898.

ART UNION AMERICAN CIRCULAR.

Therein it is Styled the Kentucky Lottery.

"The Kentucky Lottery Company" is a secondary title used under the title Royal Canadian Art Union of this city on prize lists distributed in the United States.

The first heading is "The Canadian Royal Art Union," and then follows the Kentucky title in brackets.

The circular for American consumption is cast on the same lines as that distributed among Canadian ticket holders.

But there is one very noticeable difference. As $15,000 is to $10,000, so is the difference between the American "Kentucky Lottery Company's" announcement, and the announcement of the Canadian Royal Art Union.

The Kentucky circular states that ticket No. 48,848 drew a prize of $15,000 in the September drawing, while the Canadian Circular places the sum opposite the same ticket number at $10,000.

The names of Hon. Peter Mitchell, Hon. N. Perodeau and Hilaire Hurteau are printed at the bottom of this American circular, and it is exactly the same as the Canadian circular except in the two particulars noted.

SOME "EXPLANATIONS."

A copy of the "Kentucky" circular was shown a clerk at the Royal Art Union rooms on St. James street this morning in the absence of Mr. Bickel, the manager, who is still ill in the Western Hospital.

"Is this an official copy of your September drawing list," he was asked.

The very polite young man glanced his eye over the list and replied, "yes."

It was pointed out that the figure given as the capital prize was $15,000.

"Oh, that's not right," he said. "The capital prize is $10,000."

A second clerk, who became interested, remarked: "It must be a typographical error; they often creep into the lists."

It was pointed out that the words "Kentucky Lottery Company" were obviously not typographical errors.

"Well, we don't know anything about it" was the last word of clerk No. 2.

The first clerk spoken to took up the matter again. He said: "It must be some parties in the States holding drawings on our numbers. That is done. A concern in Montreal carried it out for a while. They duplicated our tickets and used our drawing numbers. But we put a stop to that. This American concern is probably doing business on the same lines."

Hon. N. Perodeau, whose name is printed at the end of the so-called American circular along with those of Messrs. Mitchell and Hurteau, was seen at his office in the New York Life Building. The differences between the two lists were pointed out to him.

"I don't care about it," he said. "It is nothing to me. You can get all the information at the office of the Union, you want about it."

"But the people at the office state that this circular is

not regular. Is it not of interest to you to find that your name is printed at the end of the list as an endorsation of what the people in the Art Union rooms themselves state is not regular?"

"I don't care anything about it; it is nothing to me; I am not interested. It is very good of you to point out what you consider a misuse of my name; but it is no difference."

"Mr. Perodeau," said the reporter, "is the use of your name on this list headed the Kentucky Lottery Company unauthorized by you?"

"I do not state so," said the Legislative Councillor of this province, who, after again thanking the *Star* representative for having drawn his attention to the matter, closed the brief interview. *Montreal Daily Star*, Nov. 4, 1898.

THE HOME OF THE GAMBLER.

A Boston weekly of considerable influence tells its readers that Montreal has become the seat of the lottery business for North America, lottery schemes not being against the law in the province of Quebec. We pointed out a few days ago, from the prize lists of one concern among us, that it had a drawing every month, at which it took in a hundred thousand dollars, and gave out prizes to the amount of forty-eight thousand dollars, thus, to all appearance, leaving the country the poorer by fifty-two thousand dollars a month, or over six hundred thousand dollars a year, and corrupting its people by gambling gains to an almost equal amount. From the remark of the Boston paper we gather that our own country is not being plundered and corrupted to this extent, but that through the shelter which our institutions have been giving to this sort of thing, Montreal is getting, like Monte Carlo, to be recognized as the gambling house of the continent. A concern having the assurance to call itself the Canadian Royal Art Union has abroad quite the aspect of being an appen-

dage of our government. Royal is always a word to conjure with in the United States. Whether the bad eminence Montreal seems to have obtained abroad through the machinations of these gamblers is due to the imperfection of our laws or to the failure of their enforcement will soon be known, as Mr. Grose seems to be devoting himself manfully to the application to these abominations of what law we have. One of the most extraordinary features of the proceedings so far is the fact that the lottery wheels seized by Mr. Grose from the above concern—implements that are *prima facie* illegal, as they can be used for no other purpose than for gambling—were handed back to the gamblers by the police magistrate, on a ground that a monthy drawing was about to come off before the charge against the gamblers could be tried, and that without the wheels it would be impossible for them to keep faith with their customers. A magistrate could only thus abet gambling under the idea that gambling is sometimes lawful, and might prove so in this case. Such a condition of mind is no doubt due to the fact that in Canada we are in the habit of seeing the gambling wheel or its equivalent used for purposes of religion. Churches which encourage gambling offend and injure both morals and religion, while art, in whose name the same devices are used readily, degrades herself to being the handmaid of vice.

MONTREAL'S LOTTERIES.

Mr. Mitchell's Name on the Royal Art Union's Drawing List—The Citizen's League Interested.

The Hon. Peter Mitchell was seen by a *Star* representative regarding the use of his name in connection with the drawing of the Canadian Royal Art Union.

The hon. gentleman said that he had seen a notice of something of the sort, but really could not positively say

whether or not he had ever had any communication with the Art Union people on the subject of allowing his name to be used by them in connection with the list of drawing.

Mr. Mitchell stated, however, that he has no recollection of any such proceeding.

He added that it was impossible for a man of his age to remember everything, and that he was not in the habit of charging his memory with such details.

THE LEAGUE INTERESTED.

Major E. L. Bond, president of the Citizens' League, who returned from Ottawa on Saturday evening, informed a reporter for the *Star*, this morning that the League had intended to use its utmost endeavors to secure the passage of an amendment to the art work clause at the coming session of the Quebec Legislature. The amendment would be to the effect that the clause applied only to *bona fide* works of art of real value; that the drawings should not be held oftener than once a year, and that the prizes should not be redeemable in money.

Speaking for the Citizens' League, Major Bond said he sincerely hoped that the present movement would be successful in removing the disgrace to the city which the lotteries constituted.

The redemption of the pictures was for a time effected right on the lottery premises, but when the Citizen's League made their attempt to suppress the latter, some three years ago, the business of redeeming the prizes was transferred to an outside agency.

As is generally known, the clause in the lottery section of the Criminal Code, under which the lotteries in Montreal have been operating for the past few years, permits the distribution of paintings or other works of art among the members of any incorporated society for the encouragement of art. The actual wording of the clause in question is as follows:

"This section (205) does not apply to (?) any distribution

by lot among the members or ticket holders of any incorporated society established for the encouragement of art, of any paintings, drawings or other works of art produced by the labour of the members of, or published by or under the direction of, such incorporated society."

While the lotteries hold that this exempting clause fully covers them in their drawings as at present conducted, the Citizen's League have all along contended that it does not, and that the lotteries exist in direct evasion of the law. The point is one, however, which could be appealed from court to court, and as the expense of such legal proceedings is beyond the reach of the finances of the League, no step has been taken.

The clause just quoted, by the way, was inserted several years ago to permit the distribution of genuine works of art by the Royal Art Union of Edinburgh, which society held annual drawings for famous paintings among its members. *Montreal Daily Star*, Nov. 8, 1898.

HOUSE CLEANING NEEDED.

The Toronto *Mail and Empire* says: "An exposure of a somewhat startling kind regarding the lottery schemes that are in operation in Montreal has lately been made. According to the *Star*, it is estimated that the people are bled to the tune of nearly two millions and a half yearly to keep these institutions going; and that only something like half this sum is given back to them in 'prizes,' and the *Star* wonders whether Montreal is not worse off than New Orleans used to be when its name was synonymous with lottery scandal the world over. Montreal should have a house-cleaning, and have it at once."

THE ARCHBISHOP'S VIEWS.

Archbishop Bruchesi, when asked to express an opinion in reference to the lottery evil, simply said, "I believe in enforcing the just laws of the land. If these lotteries and

art unions are really violating the law, then they ought to be suppressed, and suppressed effectually. The moral welfare of the community demands it. You may depend upon it that I shall always do all in my power to assist those who are seeking to enforce the laws of our country."

LAW AND THE LOTTERIES.

The Section of the Criminal Code Which Allows Art Unions to Exist—The Letters Patent and Their Scope.

The various art unions doing business in Montreal boasts that they are incorporated under the laws of the Dominion of Canada.

That they have secured incorporation under letters patent from the Dominion Government is well known, but the question which the courts will have ere long to decide is, whether they have power under those letters patent to conduct a lottery business such as, it is alleged, they are conducting.

The federal statute under which these companies have secured incorporation, in the guise of associations for the promotion and sale of works of art, is Chapter 119 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, known as the Companies' Act, or an act respecting the incorporation of joint stock companies by letters patent.

Section 3 of this act, which is the enacting clause, reads: "The Governor-General in Council may, by letters patent, under the Greal Seal, grant a charter to any number of persons, not less than five, who petition therefor, constituting such persons and others who may thereafter become shareholders in the company thereby created a body corporate and politic, for any of the purposes or objects to which the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada extends, except the construction and working of railways, or the business of banking and the issue of paper money or the business of insurance."

Section 4 continues: "The applicants for such letters

patent shall give at least one month's previous notice in the *Canada Gazette* of their intention to apply for the same, stating: (a) The proposed corporate name of the company, which shall not be that of any other known company, incorporated or unincorporated, or any name liable to be confounded therewith or otherwise on public grounds objectionable; (b) the purposes for which the incorporation is sought; (c) the place within Canada which is to be its chief place of business; (d) the proposed amount of its capital stock, which in the case of a loan company shall not be less than $100,000; (e) the number of shares, and the amount of each share; (f) the names in full, the addresses and the calling of each of the applicants, with special mention of the names of not more than fifteen, and not less than three of their members, who shall be the first or provinsional directors of the company, and the majority of whom shall be residents of Canada."

It will be noticed that this statute is merely an executive one, providing the machinery by which, in the words of the third clause, "the persons or others who may thereafter become shareholders in the company thereby created a body corporate and politic, for any of the purposes or objects to which the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada extends."

The alleged legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada under which these companies or associations apply for incorporation under letters patent is claimed by them to be contained in Section 205 of the Criminal Code passed by the Dominion Parliament in the session of 1892, which enacts: "That every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years' imprisonment, and to a fine not exceeding $2,000, who (a) makes, prints, advertises or publishes, or causes or procures to be made printed, advertised or published, any proposal, scheme or plan for advancing, lending, giving, selling or in any way disposing of any property by lots, cards, tickets, or any mode of chance whatsoever, or (b) sells, barters, exchanges or otherwise disposes

of, or causes or procures or aids or assists in, the sale, barter, exchange or other disposal of, or offers for sale, barter or exchange, any lot, card, ticket, or other means or device for advancing, giving, lending, selling, or otherwise disposing of any property by lots, tickets, or any mode of chance whatsoever.

"Every one is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a penalty of twenty dollars, who buys, takes or receives any such lot, ticket, or device, as aforesaid.

"Every sale, loan, gift, barter or exchange of any property, by any lottery, ticket, card or other mode of chance depending on or to be determined by chance or lot, is void, and all such property so sold, lent, given, bartered or exchanged, is liable to be forfeited by any person who sues for the same by action or information in any court of competent jurisdiction.

"No such forfeiture shall affect any right or title to such property acquired by any *bona fide* purchaser for valuable consideration without notice.

"This section includes the printing or publishing, or causing to be printed or published, of any advertisement, scheme, proposal or plan of any foreign lottery, and the sale or offer for sale of any ticket, chance or share, in such lottery, or the advertisement for sale, of such ticket, chance or share.

"This section does not apply to (a) the division by lot or chance of any property by joint tenants or tenants in common, or persons having joint interests (*droit indivis*) in such property, or (b) raffles for prizes of small value at any bazaar held for charitable objects, if permission to hold the same has been obtained from the city of municipal council, or from the Mayor, reeve or other chief officer of the city, town or other municipality, wherein such bazaar is held, and the articles raffled for thereat have first been offered for sale, and none of them are of a value exceeding fifty dollars; or (c) any distribution by lot among the members or ticket holders of any incorporated society establish-

ed for the encouragement of art, of any paintings, drawings or other works of art produced by the labour of the members of, or published by, or under the directions of, such incorporated society; (d) the Credit Foncier du Bas-Canada, or to the Crédit Foncier Franco-Canadien."

It would doubtless puzzle the uninitiated to discover where, within the bounds of this section of the criminal law of Canada, a company could find power to apply for letters patent to do a lottery business.

It must be remembered that, though it is charged certain companies do a lottery business, that is not, by any means, the object for which they sought incorporation. They are, so it is represented to the authorities, associations incorporated for the purpose of encouraging the production and sale of works of art, the product of the members of the association.

With this ostensible object in view, they pretend to find power under sub-section "C" of the latter half of the section in the Criminal Code above quoted, which exempts from the pains and penalties imposed under the first part of the section "any distribution by lot among the members or ticket holders of any incorporated society established for the encouragement of art, or any paintings, drawings or orther work of art produced by the labour of the members of, or published by, or under the direction of such incorporated society."

This sub-section in the Criminal Code was not intended to afford a subterfuge by means of which lottery companies could do a business. It was designed to promote just what it says, the production of works of art by the members of societies formed for the genuine purpose of producing and disposing of works of art, and giving them power to dispose of, by lot, fine steel plate engravings of works of art produced by the members of such society.

The Montreal courts will soon be called upon to show whether or not this is being done.

THE GAMBLING BLIGHT.

Even more corrupting in its influence than the widely advertised monthly drawings of the Canadian Royal Art Union are the daily drawings. By a vast organization, in which hundreds of people must participate, the Union manages to sell tickets daily, and announces the results of the drawings to the purchasers. For this purpose it has branches in many barber shops, particularly in the east end of the city, and on any day a number of people may be seen engaged exclusively in the sale of tickets standing at the principal street corners. Besides these, but not so apparent to the casual observer, there are a number of capable young men who make a business of selling the tickets for a commission. Though the commission is a small one, they find it a lucrative employment, for so strong is the gambling spirit when once aroused that the ticket vendors can count more certainly on keeping their steady customers than can the newsboy. In some of the large business offices a rattling trade is done in these tickets daily. As the gambling spirit grows, the customer becomes more and more superstitious. Some pin their faith to series, and will increase their numbers by a certain amount every day. Others, having found one number which they consider lucky, will stick to it, and only change the other two. Others, again, will always have their numbers named by a friend whom they consider lucky. This last is quite a common form of superstition among the daily purchasers of Art Union tickets. Any day at the counter of the central office may be seen young men pondering deeply what numbers they will try this time. Such senseless superstition debases the reasoning powers, dethrones the judgment, and defies common sense. Having no basis in reason is akin to insanity. Financially the daily drawings are little better as a speculation than the monthly drawings. The Art Union has, however, managed to so arrange the drawing that not one person in a thousand, even with

his algebra before him, could work out the balance of chances, or judge how near they may come to what gamblers speak of as fair play. There are seventy-eight numbers put in a wheel. The player pays five cents for the privilege of naming three numbers. Twelve numbers are drawn from the wheel, and if the numbers named by the player are among these, he gets ten dollars. By doubling the stake the prize is also doubled, so that for ten cents he gets twenty dollars, and for twenty-five cents fifty dollars. In another form of the game the player pays five cents to name two numbers, and if these are drawn in the twelve he gets a dollar and a half as prize. There are many other forms, but these are the most popular. In the first of these, in which the player names three numbers, the Canadian Royal Art Union takes in $17.30 for every $10 paid out, so making a profit of $7.30, or 73 per cent., or in other words it has 73 per cent. of chances in its favor as against the customer's. In the two-number game the Art Union takes in $2.25 for every $1.50 paid out, so making a profit of 75 cents, or 50 per cent. A man would have to be as rich as Croesus to play long with such odds against him, and even Croesus would with dead certainty get used-up in time.

SCOPE OF THE LOTTERIES.

Business extending All Over the Dominion.

How Business is Done at Points Outside of Montreal.

Montreal is now earning a reputation as the home of lottery combinations which hitherto has been unknown in a Canadian city.

This is due, in a large measure, to the existence here of no less than five lottery institutions with their numerous branches. These companies or associations have, they claim, power under the criminal laws of Canada to conduct their operations. In the guise of associations for the promotion of art and the relief of the poor they have secured

incorporation under letters patent from the Dominion Government. For years they have successfully combatted in the courts all efforts for their suppression.

Started in a small way with a local business, these companies have steadily increased the scope of their operations.

Among the poorer wage earners in the city are to be found thousands who, every week, contribute a portion of their hard earned money to these institutions. In the cities, towns and villages of Quebec, Ontario and the Maritime Provinces they have established agencies for the sale of their tickets, and from this business they derive a large revenue.

Under expert management of men who understand the business, schemes for the extension of these lottery enterprises to most of the cities, towns and villages in almost every province of the Dominion are in contemplation.

The evil effect of the lottery is perhaps more clearly evidenced in Montreal than anywhere else because this city is the home of so many of these corporations, but the business is spreading with wonderful rapidity. Throughout the province of Quebec there is scarcely a town or village where one or more of these lottery companies have not agents who sell tickets for their drawings in Montreal.

In the cities, towns and villages of the provinces of Ontario the business of these companies is also gaining a strong foothold.

Although they claim to have the right under the criminal laws of the country to conduct their operations, the business is carried on in Ontario without any unnecessary display or publicity. Saloon keepers, barbers and small newsdealers are usually the chosen agents. They know the sporting element in the places where they do business, and it is among that class that customers are usually sought.

In the Maritime Provinces also these lotteries are doing a large business, but there is no undue noise about it. Agents are carefully chosen, and the agent usually knows his customers, and the customers the agent. Everything

is done in a manner least likely to attract public attention.

In Montreal the lottery companies claim that they distribute works of art only as prizes to the holders of winning tickets. But how is it in the outside towns? An agent does the business. The tickets are bought from him, and immediately after every drawing in Montreal, he receives printed lists, which he distributes to those of his customers who have tickets in that drawing. Those holding winning numbers hand over their tickets to the agent, and he does the rest.

In a few days the prize winner receives from the agent the amount of the prize for which his ticket calls in cash.

THE LOTTERY.

Montreal has become the focus of gambling for North America, and is beginning to suffer contempt accordingly. This is one of those blights which usually settle down on decaying communities. Louisiana long enjoyed the eminence which we do now, but federal zeal, through the Post-Office Department, seems to have successfully driven the curse across the boundary line. As it is presumable that a great deal of the business done here is done with the United States through the post-office, it is not impossible that it will cause complications in our post-office relations with that country. As local public opinion seems impervious to shame in the matter, we also may have to appeal to post-office intervention for deliverance. The good people of the city have no knowledge of how the name of the city is being injured. The so-called art lottery concern has adopted a title and methods of advertising which would lead the careless abroad to regard it as a government concern, and there are the handbills of another lottery scheme on Notre Dame street which calls itself the 'Montreal Provident Institution, created to stimulate economy and savings by the accumulation of capital from small assessments,' with 'offices and deposits for Montreal,' and issuing 'provident bonds,' and it is 'registered with the prothono-

tary of the Superior Court for the district of Montreal and with the registrar for Montreal.' All this, and much more, to give the innocent receiver the impression that it is an authorized and official concern.

We deserve to some extent the reputation we are thus having dishonestly foisted upon us. When a gambling den—a 'gambling hell' used to be the common newspaper expression—was raided the other day, the keeper put forward in his defence a letter from a rural priest who asserted that the concern was run for the benefit of his parish, and that he had received money from it. It would be pretty hard to invent a queerer travesty upon religion than some of the developments of our gambling laws which make religion a warrant for a vice. This gambling master pays toll to a clergyman and holds his letter, which, with some color, he regards as a legal license to carry on his traffic. The gambler also held a letter from the Mayor, which, whatever it may have said, was sufficiently favorable to his business to be laid before the Court as a further warrant for his business. Another concern when brought before the courts had its appliances, which, according to law, may be seized at sight, and had been so seized, handed back to it on the score that without them it could not keep faith with its customers. On the whole, it would seem that though we have some old fogy laws forbidding gambling, that vice does not labor under the very severe condemnation of either Church or State. Indeed, many of our leading men have been in one way or another abettors of it.

LOTTERIES AND GAMBLING DENS.

The Federated Trades Council Pass a Resolution Calling Upon the City Council to Suppress Them at Once.

The Federated Trades and Labor Council met last evening, and expressed its opinion very forcibly regarding the lotteries and gambling houses permitted to run in Montreal. A letter was read, in which complaint was made

that people had been robbed quite recently in some of these institutions. After a spirited discussion the following was passed:

"Resolved, that this council disapproves of lotteries and gambling houses, of any description, and that we have good reason to believe that houses of this kind are permitted to swing clear and flourish in our city, and that no time can be spared by the authorities for the correction of an evil that endangers the very lives of workingmen, and is a constant jeopardy for their children. If we have a law for the suppression of this evil, it should be executed. If we have not, the City Council should take the subject into consideration immediately, and the police officers should do their duty without fear or favor."

TO PROHIBIT LOTTERIES.

The Knights of Labour Will Petition the Government.

Black Diamond Assembly Considers Them a Curse to the Community.

The regular meeting of Black Diamond Assembly, 1711, Knights of Labour, was held last evening in their hall, 662 1-2 Craig street, the Master Workman, H. McCamby, in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as read. After initiating three candidates, the applications of six others were referred to the investigation committee. It was resolved that the assembly petition the Dominion Government to pass a law prohibiting the running of lotteries in this city or province, under the guise of art unions or otherwise, as in the opinion of the assembly, they are a curse to the community in general, creating poverty and crime. The delegates to the Central Trades and Labour Council were instructed to bring the matter before that body at its next meeting. It was also decided to petition the Quebec Government to eliminate the special tax clause regarding departmental stores, as contained in the new charter. The officers were

installed by District Master Workman, Honore Gravel. *The Montreal Daily Star*, Thursday, February 9, 1899.

The judgment of Mr. Lafontaine, the police magistrate, fully committing the manager of the Royal Art Union for trial before the Court of Queen's Bench upon a charge of keeping a common gaming house brings the case to a close as far as the private prosecution is concerned. Mr. Grose, notwithstanding all the difficulties raised and the long array of counsel employed for the defence, has succeeded, and the matter, is now taken out of his hands and out of the hands of his counsel. It is well that it should be understood that the full responsibility for the case from this time forward rests with the Crown. The further progress of the case will be watched with keen interest. While not wishing to prejudice a case which has yet to be tried in the court we may say that the evidence already brought out shows the case to be one of the most important that has come before the courts for years, and the public has a right to insist that it shall receive the attention from the Crown that it merits.—*Witness*, Monday, February 27, 1899.

OVERTHROW OF LOTTERIES.

A Letter of Encouragement Received From Philadelphia by Black Diamond Assembly.

The regular meeting of Black Diamond Assembly, 1711, Knights of Labour, was held in their hall, 662 1-2 Craig street, last evening. Mr. Henry McCamby, M.W., presiding. A resolution was passed requesting the Federal Government to enact a law compelling the weekly payment of wages throughout the Dominion, and a committee was appointed to go to Ottawa after the opening of Parliament, at the same time, as the executive committee of the Trades and Labour Congress, and act in conjunction with that body in bringing the matter before the Cabinet, and urging on them the imperative necessity of the same. A resolu-

tion was also passed requesting the Water Committee to lower the water rates to the standard of the principal cities of the United States. The following letter was then read from Mr. H. W. Childs, of Philadelphia, who was at one time a prominent merchant of this city.

Philadelphia, Feb. 15, 1899.

God bless all the members of your Assembly for the great good in which they are engaged in opposing the damnable institution known as lotteries. Good luck and God's blessing will follow all who are assisting in the overthrow of this monstrous demon.—*Montreal Daily Star*, Thursday, January 12, 1899.

THE LOTTERY CASE.

The prosecution instituted by Mr. John A. Grose against the Canadian Royal Art Union has reached a stage where the Crown authorities will have further conduct of the case. It is relevant to point out that a former and similar trial before the Montreal courts reached the same stage, and was dropped, because the newly-made Attorney-General deemed it advisable to drop the case. The confusion attending a change of Government was put forward as an excuse. In the present case, however, no such reason can be accepted to stay the hand of justice and decide whether or not the lottery and policy features of the "Art Unions" are legal or illegal.—*Montreal Daily Star*, Monday, February 27, 1899.

POLICEMEN AND POLICY.

The Guardians of the Peace are also Players of the Game.

'Policy' gambling seems to have taken a thorough hold of many persons in Montreal. High and low, rich and poor, merchant and mechanic, lawyer and policeman—all appear to have joined in the demoralizing game. And the places where the tickets are sold are legion. In almost

every quarter of the city a person may obtain a ticket, and for almost any amount he likes to bet. Little, dingy cigar stores, with one or two boxes, a few packages of tobacco and some stray pipes; small candy stores, with stale candy and staler cakes; saloons, restaurants, large tobacco stores —these are some of the places where this wholesale gambling is carried on—and carried on openly, too. And what a heterogeneous set of gamblers they are! One of the most curious sights, however, was witnessed the other evening in a little cigar store on a street off St. Denis street, where three stalwart policemen, who are supposed to be guardians of the peace and morals of the city, entered, carefully scanned the list of 'lucky' numbers drawn that day, and, finding they were not winners, deposited their money for three more tickets, for which they announced the numbers in a loud voice, then buttoning the precious pieces of paper up carefully, marched out of the store with merry jokes about 'better luck next time' to the storekeeper. And these policemen were in full uniform, and carried their batons by their sides. It is by no means an uncommon thing to see a policeman leave his beat, go into a 'policy' agency, presumably to look at the list numbers to see whether he is a winner or not, and then go on 'beat' again. This is a very bad example to set to the youth of the city.—*Witness*, Thursday, March 9, 1899.

THE VICTIMS OF THE LOTTERIES.

The case of the young Belgian, Alphonse Marynissen, whom a temporary success at "bucking the tiger" in the shape of one of our too numerous lotteries brought to dire ruin; illustrates for the thousandth time the unmitigated evil that these institutions are to the public. This unfortunate youth, it will be remembered, was making a good living in the legitimate avenues of trade when the seductive goddess of chance threw him a smile and he made a few lucky purchases of lottery tickets. Then, he tells us, he "went wild over the game;" continued to play even after

his losses became heavy; always expected that the luck would turn; neglected his business; was finally kicked out of even his miserable ticket agency by the lottery company; and finally found himself under arrest for obtaining fifteen cents under false pretences. So much for the favour of the goddess chance.

The gravest charge against cheap gambling establishments of all kinds is the undeniable fact that they prey upon the most defenceless members of the community. It is the youth with little knowledge of the world who imagines that there are run for his advantage lotteries and gaming houses where he can really get a fortune for a trifle if he be so fortunate as to choose the right numbers; and that his chances for doing this are considerable. Consequently the young clerk, the raw country lad, the stranger, the friendless girl making her own plucky fight against the world, even the errand boy and the servant girl, are drawn into the net of the gambling establishment, and there are deprived of the money they need so keenly. If it were possible to write the full story of the losses suffered in one large gambling house, it would be a chapter in real life more dramatic than most of the imaginings of the romancers. It would tell of pilferings from the tills of employers to make up the losses in the last venture, breaches of trust by clerks, money stolen by errand boys, and terrible temptations thrust in the paths of young girls. It is not only at spectacular Monte Carlo that gaming losses lead to suicide, moral as well as physical.

If it is right to protect the public against medical charlatans who might deceive the stranger and the ill-informed into trusting to them when the disease requires the attention of a skilled physician, then it is right to protect the young and the inexperienced from delusive lures which hold out a promise of a short cut to wealth, but lead rather to loss and disaster. The community has no right to permit in its midst traps for the feet of the young, and then punish the young when they stray into them. The merchant, for instance, who will not

do his share to get rid of the gambling temptations which, in this city, perhaps, more than in most others, dazzle his modestly paid and fairly hard worked clerk into risking his scant earnings on the chance of large winnings, may have the law on his side when he comes to prosecute that clerk for making up his losses out of the office till; but he can hardly have an easy conscience over the affair. An admirably trained boy, sheltered in the right kind of a home, may be safe in the midst of such boy-traps; but the city is full of lads who have not these advantages.

Nor will the city be advantaged by a citizenship growing amid such surroundings. A gambling experience discourages patient industry and makes one dissatisfied with the slow earnings of honest labour. The Supreme Court of the United States has well said that "society built upon such a foundation (gambling) would almost of necessity bring forth a population of speculators and gamblers living on the expectation of what chance might award them from the accumulations of others." The suppression of public gambling is nothing but a measure of public protection.—*Montreal Daily Star*, Saturday, March 11, 1899.

Your support is earnestly solicited in having the Law amended so as to completely wipe out this evil from the Province of Quebec.

POLICY GAMBLING.

An Evil that Even 'Rummies' Wish to Suppress.

It is almost certain that, if tested in the courts, 'policy' gambling would be declared to be illegal, under the revised code, mainly the work of the late Sir John Thompson. The fact that no such test has been, or probably will be, applied, demonstrates the need of a public prosecutor, according to the suggestion recently made by Judge Wurtele.

Evidence abounds on every hand of the desolating effect of this special form of gambling, which has been introduced into Montreal comparatively recently. Just who is responsible for its introduction could not be easily ascertain-

ed, but it is known that coincident with the sale of 'policy' tickets there appeared a number of 'sports' in certain premises on Craig street who appeared to be associated with the new enterprise.

Thousands have been bitten by this form of gambling. Those who suffer most are classes who can least afford to lose anything. The game flourishes best in the working districts of the city. In the latter every cigar and cheap candy store offer the tickets to their patrons. The commission allowed by the promoters is twenty per cent. There are numbers of small stores in the west end of the city, particularly along the line of Notre Dame street, which make a clear profit of from twelve to fifteen dollars a week selling tickets to working-men. The manager of a large industrial concern in this neighborhood, which employs several hundred men, has done his best to demonstrate to his workmen the folly of having anything to do with a swindle which only offered to its victims one chance in a hundred, but in vain. He showed that the combinations upon which the men depended for success were not to be trusted, and that though they might be permitted to win once in a while, in the end they must come out losers. Nevertheless, they were not convinced, and to show the extremes to which this gambling passion will go, it may be stated that a number of men in this district brought on a 'clever' fellow from the United States who made a business of forming successful 'combinations' of winning numbers in order that he should guarantee them 'luck,' for which they were willing to pay.

As it happens, the victims are most numerous amongst workmen poorly paid, and who cannot afford to part with the smallest sums. It is these who are bitten by the desire of sudden gain, and even their wives and children have caught the baneful contagion. Combinations are made out of the numbers of houses; numerical novelties are sought in the hope that luck will attend them; children on the streets talk about their 'lucky' numbers.

Drawings are held daily, and the lists are found in al-

most all the large industrial establishments in the city. Men and boys may be found poring over these with the greatest interest. If moralists are indifferent, the 'rummies' are not, and it is understood that the latter are about to petition the proper authorities to put 'policy' under the ban, on the ground that it is taking the bread not only out of the mouths of the working-men and their families, for whom they feel the greatest solicitude, but out of their own as well, which is perhaps more to the point, seeing that the poor men who play 'policy' are no longer able to patronize the saloon, which got a goodly portion of their earnings at the end of each fortnight, when the score was paid off—all the saloons in the neighborhood of factories giving credit from one pay day to the next.

A certain sardonic humor may possibly be found in this situation, as far as the action of the 'rummies' is concerned. What is undoubted is, that even in New York, which, under a Tammany régime, is 'run' wide open, it has been found necessary to extirpate 'policy' gambling wherever found—the administration recognizing that it was the most insidious of all the evils which exist in a large centre, invading, as it does, the home, and transforming the women and children into gambling fiends, whose passion is even more insatiable than that of the men, and who fling off every restraint which makes the life of the poor decent, honest and virtuous.

The question is, when will our local authorities make a test case in order to see whether the law permits this evil to exist, or whether it is already condemned by the revised civil code, which only needs energetic application on the part of those who are paid to execute not merely local by-laws, but the general law of the country.—*Daily Witness*, Montreal, Friday, March 24, 1899.

Copy of Letter received from the Superintendent of the Boys' Home.

THE BOYS' HOME OF MONTREAL.

115, 117, 119 and 121 Mountain.

James R. Dick, Superintendent,

Montreal, March 24th, 1899.

JOHN A. GROSE, Esq.,

Sir,—Incidentally hearing that you were about to proceed to Ottawa, for the purpose of interviewing the Federal Minister of Justice, regarding the law of lotteries, and intend presenting him with several petitions against the law as it now stands, I beg to lay before you my difficulty as Superintendent and Father of a large family of boys, who come to this city from other parts of the country and Great Britain.

The inducements to gamble are in nearly every candy store. There lottery tickets are sold for any sum you wish to put up, from five cents upwards, and the devices are such that the prizes are few, if any; nevertheless, they try again and spend much money.

There is such a place in the vicinity of the Boys' Home, which has a very debasing effect on our boys, whom we are trying to save to an honest and true life of manhood. Our expenditure is between $5,000 and $6,000 a year to elevate and give a trade or profession to such as are suitable for either, but those places which exert such an influence on the young mind are ruining our boys by the hundreds, and those who frequent such places are encouraged to usurp paternal authority, and be manly, and do as they like.

I have never had such difficulties to contend with during my sixteen years of service for boys in the Boys' Home as within the past two years, which are directly owing to those lottery and gambling places, being so prominent and daring. A father recently told me that his son has been entirely ruined by this place; the boy would spend his en-

tire month's pay on tickets, and he has several times gone home under the influence of liquor.

Another sad feature of the case is that the boys will not give any information of a nature that will bring the keepers of such places within the reach of the law. There appears to be no law, except it be on the side of the law-breaker. The lads are terrorized, and held in fear of being informed on.

On one occasion, I went into one of these places to order a few of my boys out, and was threatened with bodily punishment for trying to save the lads from going down to ruin.

It would be well that the law prohibit the sale of lottery tickets, cigarettes, and liquor to any less than the years of manhood.

Now, dear Sir, I do not wish to say too much, but if you can do anything by making use of the above, or by myself further, I shall be glad to be of service, so that this damning evil may be put a stop to, and the flower of our young manhood be saved from a ruined life in the future.

Tell the Minister of Justice to legislate for the boys who, in a very few years will be the fathers of our fair Canada, and not to consider at all those who for a few cents would ruin their fair young lives.

May you have success in your mission, which will be a lasting triumph to future posterity.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed), JAMES R. DICK,
Superintendent.