

monwealth, said: "There is hardly a newspaper but in it you see that some young man has been brought to downfall by yielding to the cursed fascination of gambling. You talk about drink. It is not responsible for half the crimes that betting and gambling are." Judge Cooper, of this Dominion, said: "A very large proportion of the crimes of forgery, embezzlement, and breaches of trust, are committed by those who have become victims of the gambling habit. Our welfare is being menaced and the tone of the community lowered by the prevalence of the habit. Men and women should learn that gambling is vicious and immoral, and against the best interests of home, family and state." An Australian Bishop breezily said the other day, "There are few things which make a man such a thorough cad as the desire to do his companions out of their money."

#### SOCIAL EFFECTS.

2. The social effects. Gambling destroys the mutual character of life. All normal transactions bless him who gives and him who takes. The buyer and seller, the worker and the employer, are both benefited by a deal. So is it, too, in normal amusement. In gambling alone there is but a single benefit, that to the winner, and there is blank loss to the loser. Herbert Spencer put it: "Gambling is first gain without merit, and secondly gain through

another's loss." It is therefore not consistent with any social code or with brotherhood. It is the most wretched form of selfish individualism. The gambler is pre-eminently the exploiter of his fellows. It has been truly said: "It involves a conscious and deliberate departure from the general aim of civilised society, which is to obtain proper value for money." There is nothing that holds back social reform more surely than the gambling habit. Social reform has a great objective, and that is the elimination of gains for which the community has received no value. But a community which gambles is involved in that very condemnation. Gamblers are tied up with the most wretched form of capitalistic excess. Bismarck deliberately applauded gambling because it took the keen edge off the demand for larger liberties.

Christian men have to consider further the question of stewardship in relation to money. The possessions of men are not their own in the sense that they can do as they like with them. They have also to return an affirmative answer to the ancient question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" They have to consider not merely the personal effects of an action, but the social effects.

Gambling is personally a vicious habit. It is socially dangerous. In the highest realm it is the negation of religious ideals.

#### OUR COUNTRY.

The bearing of all this on national life is obvious. National life is the sum of individual life. A nation in which gambling is entrenched is a nation whose efficiency is lowered, whose readiness for social advance is dangerously checked, and whose morals are pitched low. When Machiavelli was asked what could be done to lower the vitality of a neighbouring state his reply was, "Teach them to gamble." The enormous volume of gambling indulged in is a menace to New Zealand. Nothing can be more ominous than the grip of the racing clubs on the Parliament of this country.

We believe, as it has been said, "that a day is coming in the history of the British race when it will be seen that betting involves as real a dishonour to the idea of humanity as slavery itself." That day cannot come too soon.

#### GAOL SOLD TO CARDINAL.

Lowell, Mass.—Middlesex County Gaol, which has had a dearth of prisoners for several years, was sold at auction to-day. It was bought by an agent of Cardinal O'Connell.

Officials said the gaol had been a "surplus plant" since Prohibition was enacted.—"S.F. Bulletin," September 25, 1924.



DELEGATES AT NEW ZEALAND ALLIANCE CONVENTION, 1926.