

The Hon. P. L. COLEMAN.—We will get a share of this dividend.

The Hon. E. P. CAMERON.—It has been stated on behalf of the Government that, by virtue of clause 8 of the Bill, all the business of Tattersall's will be transacted through one office. Instead of the streets being cluttered up with motor vehicles, we can picture queues of unfortunate, misguided persons, waiting to get into that one office, in an effort to gain easy money, and blocking the traffic. However, clause 8 provides that the Governor in Council may appoint agents. It does not require great mental gymnastics to picture pressure being brought upon members of this Government or of succeeding Governments to grant somebody an agency, to give some good supporter another agency, and then another, and another, and so the horrible business will go on, with confidence men and others all wanting to get something as a result of a Bill sponsored by the Government.

Clause 10 empowers the Governor in Council to make regulations with respect to agents and their duties. Unlimited power will be conferred on the Governor in Council if that clause is passed as drafted. Once again, we can visualize pressure being brought to bear upon a Government. If the transfer of Tattersall's from Tasmania to Victoria is the best solution that can be devised to help a very needy cause, all of us must be devoid of statesmanship.

The Hon. P. L. COLEMAN.—I am waiting to hear your alternative plan.

The Hon. E. P. CAMERON.—If we are so devoid of statesmanship we can look forward to a precarious future. I wonder at the Minister of Transport looking for somebody's catch-penny snap decision solution. The Government has presented a Budget totalling approximately £100,000,000, and it has stated that the financial position of the hospitals is so bad that they must be the first calls on the funds, as they are the concern of everybody. The Government asks for suggestions after having admitted the seriousness of the position of hospitals and mental institutions. If they are so important as the Govern-

ment pretends, surely we could all agree that they should have the first call upon available funds. The institutions which I have referred, and the needs of children from birth to school-leaving age are of prime importance. After the Government has allotted the sum of £100,000,000 to various Departments, the Minister asks for suggestions and says "What else can we do?" I feel sure that all will agree that the duty of Government is to lead upwards and not downwards, both morally and economically. Only thus will it retain and be worthy of the respect of all sections of the community.

The Hon. A. K. BRADBURY (North-Eastern Province).—This is the first occasion on which I have risen to address this Council, and I very much regret that such a Bill as the Tattersall Consultations Bill should now be before the House. I oppose the measure and shall state my objections to it. I consider that the Bill marks one of the darkest days in the history of this Parliament. The Minister of Transport stated that last December, when the Legislative Assembly general election was held, the Government received a mandate from the people for the introduction of a lottery into Victoria. I question that claim; it has been asserted that many mandates were given to the Government at the December election. The question of lottery was only very vaguely mentioned during the campaign. There were many other much more important questions exercising the minds of the candidates and the electors. The only time that this controversial subject was truly brought before the electors was in the campaign which preceded the recent by-election in the North-Eastern Province, in which I had the honour to carry the banner of the Country party.

On every platform during the by-election opposition to the introduction of a lottery in Victoria was expressed by my Leader, my supporters, and myself. I doubt whether the Government will deny that on no previous occasion has it ever fought a by-election with more vigour and more ammunition than on the occasion to which I refer. During the election campaign the introduction

of a lottery was made a burning question. In contesting that election I was at a disadvantage as compared with my opponents, as I had come into the province as a resident only a few days prior to the election. My Labour opponent had lived in the province all his life. However, the result of the by-election was a denunciation of the proposal of the Labour party for the introduction of a lottery. That party does not hold a mandate from the electors of this State on that issue.

The Hon. T. W. BRENNAN.—That is a big claim.

The Hon. A. K. BRADBURY.—It may be, but one should be guided only by facts and figures. The result of that election proved in no uncertain manner that the people were opposed to the introduction of a lottery. I oppose the establishment of a lottery on moral grounds. I do not hold myself up as one without shortcomings or weaknesses, but I can truthfully say that I have never bought a ticket in a raffle or in a lottery. Yesterday was the first occasion on which I have ever stepped on a racecourse. I did so because I felt the glamour of the Melbourne Cup carnival and I had the privilege of taking my wife to see a Melbourne Cup for the first time. We both thoroughly enjoyed it.

It is not for me to say that any other man or woman should not do this or that. I believe in personal sacrifice and in the principle that a man should do that which his own conscience dictates. I do not set myself up as one to preach to any other person as to what he should or should not do. However, I believe that the running of a lottery in this fair State of Victoria would tend to lower the moral principles of the community. I agree with the view expressed by Sir James Kennedy that there is grave suspicion and a stigma surrounding the running of lotteries in the different States of Australia, and that we should not do anything that would create a similar state of affairs in Victoria.

I believe that the introduction of a lottery in Victoria would be a definite disregard of those high principles for which all churches stand. I do not think

there would be one member of this Chamber who has not the highest regard for the churches of this or any other State, because it is recognized that the teachings of the churches constitute the greatest bulwark in the community in combating wrong. There is no greater organization than the churches in their work in assisting in the upbringing of children in accordance with those high principles which they espouse.

I do not know whether members noticed, at the opening of the sitting of the Council to-day, the eleven children who were sitting in the gallery. I ask what member would not have been proud if one of his children had been among those eleven? Let us pause and think what the introduction of a lottery in this State could do to many of the children of the future. The churches are endeavouring to teach young people the principles of righteousness and to assist in their being brought up in the love of their country. Has it not been said, "Give us the child until it is seven years of age, and you can do what you like with it afterwards." If principles of the right standard are inculcated into the minds of young children, sooner or later their characters will reflect the training they received in their early years.

In any State in which lotteries are conducted one may witness the queues that form outside the ticket-selling offices. In those queues may be seen mothers with children at their hands and in their prams, waiting to buy tickets. It may be said that such scenes will not be witnessed in Victoria. I may refer to that aspect later. If a lottery is approved to operate in Victoria, it will be a retrograde step for the young children of the State. If the Government persists in its proposal to introduce a lottery it will be disregarding the great work of the churches which are playing a very important role in the community, and instead of trying to uphold and further the work of the churches, the State will be breaking down the efforts of those organizations.

It may be argued that the reason for the introduction of a lottery in this State is that thousands of pounds are being

sent annually by Victorians to other States for the purchase of lottery tickets, and that the Victorian Government might as well lay its hands on some of that money. On that point I remind members of the old but very true saying that two wrongs do not make a right. In the exercise of his or her free will, a man or a woman may send money to another State for a ticket in a lottery, but it does not become the Government to introduce the evil of a lottery in Victoria.

As I said earlier, yesterday I witnessed the running of the Melbourne Cup race, but merely because racing and betting on a racecourse are legal, that is not a justification for the introduction of a lottery. Many years ago I studied theology under an eminent minister. That gentleman went to the races on numerous occasions. He said it was his greatest joy to witness the excellently groomed thoroughbreds galloping down the track. Yesterday I had the same pleasure of seeing the thoroughbreds in action, and, although I did not have 2s. each way on a horse, I thoroughly enjoyed the spectacle of the race.

The Government proposes to introduce a lottery in Victoria under the guise of support for charity. It would appear that unless the people accept as an obligation the necessity to support the lottery, the Hospitals and Charities Commission will be short of finance to carry on the worthy work of the hospitals. I stress the fact that in the main, it will be the worker, as Mr. Cameron pointed out, who will support the lottery. The man who has accumulated wealth or the man in the middle class—if I may use that term—does not worry very much about such things as lotteries. It is the worker, hoping to become rich overnight, who will delve into his pocket for the money to buy a lottery ticket, and it is the mothers and the children in the homes who will suffer as a result, because whatever the worker spends on lottery tickets must reduce the amount of housekeeping money available to be spent by his family.

I contend that the introduction of a lottery is unjust and wrong in principle. The sick and mentally ill of this State

*The Hon. A. K. Bradbury.*

should not be expected to accept relief and support from a game of mere chance, a game that is doubtful as to its success. Surely the sick and mentally ill are on a higher plane. It is the responsibility of the State to provide the wherewithal to ensure their care and treatment. It has been suggested that the amount of revenue to be received by the Government from the operation of the lottery will be approximately £1,000,000 a year. I wonder whether, after the introduction of the lottery, the Government will continue to grant to the Hospitals and Charities Commission the equivalent of the allocations now being made from Consolidated Revenue for hospitalization. It is very doubtful. One excuse for this lottery proposition is that Victoria is experiencing bad times in relation to finance. The stage may be reached at which it would be possible to say that the Hospitals and Charities Commission was receiving so much financial assistance from lottery proceeds as to justify a reduction of the grants from Consolidated Revenue. In such an event, hospitals and charities would be no better off than they are at present. I believe, further, that the establishment of this lottery in Victoria will mean a falling off in voluntary subscriptions which have been made year after year towards the cost of hospital maintenance in this State. That has been the result in other States where lotteries are conducted. Should it occur in Victoria, to the extent that there was a falling off in voluntary subscriptions, the success of the lottery would be detrimentally affected.

I think it will be discovered in the long run that little will be gained from this lottery and that the State will lose a large degree of its prestige by the lowering of the moral standards of the community. For the reasons I have advanced, the party which I have the honour to represent will oppose vigorously to the end the proposal to introduce this lottery to Victoria, and I sincerely trust that the public of Victoria will raise such an outcry that even at this late stage the Government will tread warily and give the matter second consideration before the measure is finally passed by the House.