

Yesterday a man almost seventy, represented as practically without resources, cheerfully paid a fine of \$200 after his counsel had begged off a seven days' sentence. Who supplied the money to pay that fine? Whose agent was the gambler in the collection of the wagers ventured by bettors? The Magistrate is manifestly confronted with circumstances similar to those in the bootlegging business, where for a time most of the vendors of illicit liquor appeared to be poor women with large families trying to earn a meagre living. The "poor woman" game lasted until some of the poor women were sent to jail. After that the illicit sale of liquor again became a man's job.

Until some of these poor, old, out-of-work handbook gamblers fail to work the sympathy appeal, and find themselves in jail for six months, it is certain that the men higher up whose tools they are will take care to employ in their miserable business wrecks of humanity calculated to bring tears even to the hardened eyes of a Toronto Magistrate. How the Boss Gambler must laugh at these Police Court farces!

THE FUTURE OF THE FAIR.

The Canadian National Exhibition closes tonight in a blaze of unexampled success. The Fair has entered upon a new stage which makes a fresh demand upon the enterprise, energy and resources of its management. This year saw a great enlargement of the plant, but it also revealed the need of further extension. The huge Coliseum was built primarily for a purpose not directly related to the Exhibition and not yet fulfilled, but every foot of the space has been required to accommodate exhibits, for some of which it was not designed. The crowds that have followed the cattle judging, seated in comfort, and that attended yesterday the review of prize cattle, a magnificent spectacle, prove that the new building has greatly increased the usefulness and attractiveness of the Fair, and will soon become indispensable. The Pure Food Building, which has some unique architectural features, is an addition that has already justified itself, without increasing the overhead charges. But all the expansion of plant and equipment has been overtaken by the demands of exhibitors, while the patronage has exceeded the highest expectations.

The permanent character of the Exhibition is now so established that the directors will be warranted in going on with permanent plans of development. It has been for years the greatest annual event of the kind on the continent, and it is now recognized as such outside the borders of Canada. Its reputation has spread not only throughout the United States, but in Mexico, Central America and South America. Representatives of the Southern Republics who attended the Fair this year will urge their Governments to erect a Latin-American building. More accommodation is needed for certain classes of exhibits, especially for the automotive and other branches of industry. The position of the Exhibition is now so secure that every new structure should be planned

gets panicky and attempts to hoard coal. The last remark hardly applies to Toronto, because there is no opportunity to hoard coal at present; the coal is not there to be hoarded. When a supply does begin to arrive provision ought to be made for sharing it fairly, not allowing some cellars to be full and others empty. The Chicago Daily News says:

The cost of producing coal has not been increased. Neither has the cost of hauling it to market. The miners have gone back to work at the wages they received before, and there have been no other increases in the cost of production. Why is it necessary that coal prices should be materially advanced?

It remains for the mine operators convincingly to demonstrate, if they can, that an advance in the prices of coal over those of last year is the result of necessity, as they and the retail dealers would have it appear. The consuming public should insist upon having proof that higher coal prices are a necessity, and not a hold-up.

The natural effect of the strike will be that coal will come in slowly, and that people will have to lay in a supply as it comes instead of trying to provide for the whole winter at once. But, as the cost of production is not increased, there will be no excuse whatever for a general increase of prices. Such a proceeding would be simply a hold-up.

PROTECTION IN BRITAIN.

The British Trade Review, which may be presumed to be more concerned with trade and industry than with either free trade or protectionist theory, says that, regarded as a sort of trial run of protection, the Safeguarding of Industries Act so far can hardly be considered a success. On the one hand, it says, it goes too far, and on the other hand not far enough. It is remarkable that a Ministry composed in part of Free Traders and in part of Tariff Reformers should have been able to arrive at an agreement of any kind. "As an instrument of compromise it is a masterpiece, and that, perhaps, is the best that can be said about it." Protection, says The Review, is no more popular than it ever was, and it believes that a general election fought on that straight issue would result in a defeat of the Reformers (as the protectionists call themselves). This it says without any opinion on the merits of the question, "for politics is outside our sphere." Its opinion is that the policy is not likely to be extended in the near future.

Coming to details, The Review says that Part I. of the Act, which imposed an import duty of 33 1-3 per cent. on certain articles, mainly of no commercial interest, has given rise to a good deal of litigation and Parliamentary badinage, but not, so far as it knows, to any Cabinet crises. Incidentally it does not appear to have given birth to any new industries. Generally The Review speaks of it as a chip in the porridge, doing little good or harm.

The real trouble, it proceeds, begins with putting Part II. into force. This makes provision for setting up committees to inquire into dumping and the like. In this connec-