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| Whtered as second-class matter at the postoffice at Eastland, Texas, under Aet of March 3, 1879. <br> SUBSCRIPTION RATES <br> ONE YEAR BY MAIL (In Texas) |  |
| Lottery Question Comes Up Again <br> Every so often, usually when the tax burden grows heavy, somebody brings up the old, old question: "Wouldn't it be a good idea to raise some of this money painlessly, through lotteries?" " Massachusetts is soon to vote on such a suggestion for raising money for old age pensions. It has also been proposed that a huge national lottery be established to raise part of the national defense funds. <br> It is really not very surprising that this lottery proposal keeps hobbing up, though the whole living generation of Americans have been reared in the belief that a lottery is OK if it's birgo or a turkey raffle in the church parlor, but immoral when given government sanction and run on a large scale. Americans did not feel so in their early days. |  |
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| But as the country grew up and set itself on a firmer financial foundation, lotteries gradually became undignified, distasteful, disreputable, and finally immoral in the public mind. Many believed that they simply drew money needed for shoes and clothing and milk from the pockets of those who could least afford it, and that therefore it was really a tax burden on those least able to pay. <br> So lotteries lost the official imprimatur of national and state governments. <br> It would not be accurate to say that they vanished from the national scene. Anyone who has bought Irish Sweepstake tickets, pushed the name "Irma" out of a punchboard for a box of candy, or scribbled his name on a ticket on a new "Sizzling Six" for the local lodge or some war relief fund, knows that the lottery is not dead. <br> Thus lottery proponents argue that since people insist on playing lotteries anyway (including those who can't afford to) the state might as well run them, run them honestly, and profit thereby. It is an old argument, and has been heard before in relation to liquor and horse racing. <br> While it will be interesting to watch the outcome of the proposal in Massachusetts, it seems unlikely that lotteries will make any real comeback. The fact that they were once respectable is no wregarded as a wild oat of our national youth, and Cardinal O'Connell of Boston probably speaks for millions of Americans both inside and outside his church when he says that "it is a tremendous source of moral corruption." The proposal of government Iotteries is sure to be heard from many sources, but, if we may descend to a dice-box phrase, "the odds are against them." |  |
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