

made therein. The purpose of the first and second sections of the Bill, as we have been advised by the Department of Justice, is to bring the Code into agreement with the provisions of the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act. These were not particularly discussed by us, because we considered that what the Department had advised ought to be done.

The purpose of section 3, as set out in the Bill, was to prevent Canadian newspapers from publishing certain news with regard to betting. It was also desired by the amendment that all other publications should be likewise prevented from supplying any information regarding betting. That prohibition would include American newspapers. The Committee came to the conclusion that it was absolutely impossible to shut out from Canada American newspapers containing the information that the Bill was intended to prohibit.

It was suggested by Mr. Shearer, who appeared before the Committee, that all forbidden news should be blotted out with a brush or blue-pencilled, and that anyone sending newspapers containing such news, not so blotted out or erased, should be liable to punishment. I think the House will agree with me that it would be absolutely impossible to carry out that suggestion. How would it be possible to shut out about 200 newspapers that are now coming to Canada daily, or prevent them from publishing the odds on horse-racing and information as to weights, etc.? The attempt to exclude them would have this result, that Canadian newspapers must not be allowed to publish such information, and at the same time there would be American newspapers coming in with such news; consequently the prohibition would operate to the detriment of Canadian papers. It appeared therefore, to the Committee that even if it were enacted and Canadian newspapers were thus forbidden to publish such news, we would be powerless to keep out American newspapers, unless we closed the mails to them, and the evil would not be abated in the slightest degree.

Another great evil, in the opinion of certain newspapers, was the publication of "Racing News." That is a publication which comes in from Buffalo and contains nothing but racing news. The Committee were unanimously of the opinion that it ought to be shut out from Canada, so far as possible, and we have made a provision to this effect. The Committee do think, however, that it is an absolute impossibility to shut out news regarding racing and odds on racing, and so long as we have not, or do not desire to exercise, the power to

shut out American newspapers, the evil would not be one whit lessened. The Committee were also of the opinion that, even if the newspapers were shut out, there would be nothing whatever to prevent forbidden information from being disseminated by radio all over the country. In regard to section 3 of the Bill, therefore, the Committee decided to recommend that it be not adopted.

We come now to section 4, relating to the age of consent. The purpose of this section was to raise the age from 14 to 16. I shall not discuss the arguments on that question, but the Committee unanimously came to the conclusion that this year, as in former years, the section ought to be rejected.

The next clause of the Bill, section 5, deals with girls between the ages of 14 and 16, and proposes to strike out of the existing section the words "of previous chaste character." After long discussion and serious consideration by the Committee, it was decided that the amendment was not desirable and ought to be rejected.

Section 6 refers to persons gaining admission to race meetings or getting on railway trains, steamboats, etc., and proposes to insert the word "badge" after the word "ticket." The proposed amendment goes on to provide that any person who gains admission to a performance or amusement, or obtains passage on a railway train or steamboat by wearing a badge falsely shall be liable in the same way as those who falsely present a ticket.

Section 7 of the Bill proposes that section 1024A of the Criminal Code be amended by adding the words "or acquittal" after the word "conviction." In this connection the Committee thought that the proposed amendment would add to the Criminal Code a feature which might be extremely dangerous and ought not to be approved, and, we ask that this matter be left in abeyance until such time as the Law Officers of the Crown reach a decision as to the best means of carrying out the purpose in view.

Section 1024A says:

Either the Attorney General of the province or any person convicted of an indictable offence may appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada from the judgment of any court of appeal setting aside or affirming a conviction—

Then the amendment comes in, "or acquittal"—

—of an indictable offence, if the judgment appealed from conflicts with the judgment of any other court of appeal in a like case.

It was thought that the insertion of the words "or acquittal" might result in a pri-