

APPENDIX No. 6

Again he says: 'Some of the present day,' I do not know to whom he refers there, but he says: (Reads).

Some of the present day 'know it alls' will tell you that the quality of the old-time sport was away down; don't believe them. They prattle of something they know nothing about. They pretend to think that jobbery then ruled supreme, but there was less temptation to go crooked in those days than now, and the racing in the seventies and eighties will bear favourable comparison with the strictist managed meetings of the present time. There was a little more sentiment then and less of the almighty dollar combination. Men did not pronounce judgment on the success of a meeting by the amount of money they won and the turfmen were ready to gather together and enjoy a pleasant social time, open a cold bottle and not shout 'thief, thief,' when beaten.

Again speaking of the same thing, the commercializing of the betting to-day he writes: (Reads.)

There are some new-fledged turfmen who pretend to believe that racing in Canada thirty or forty years ago was of no account. True, the tracks then were not as fast as now, neither were their furnishings as liberal, nor the purses as large in amount as those offered at the present day, but the charge for admission was small and the public then, as now, were liberal in their patronage. Prominent men from distant sections of the country used to foregather and there was more friendly intercourse and social enjoyment at those early meetings than at the present time. In a word, there was more pleasure and less business, more enjoyment of the racing through enthusiasm for the sport than for the sake of the money that could be squeezed out of it.

And again speaking of the dishonest practices of to-day in a chapter entitled 'The Duty of Canadian Turf Managers,' he writes:

'Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty,' and it can be truthfully said that the eternal vigilance of those who manage our turf clubs is necessary for the proper protection of the public. It is a fact beyond dispute that the demoralization of the turf affairs of the United States has sent into Canada a class of owners of an undesirable kind, many of them owning a few cheap animals and in the game solely for the purpose of making money whether by fair means or foul. When Canadian meetings were not invaded by foreigners to any noticeable extent, the same amount of watchfulness on the part of officials was not necessary, but at the present day it requires the keenest supervision to properly protect the race-going public. Whether or not the men who at the present time are acting as judges at the leading running meetings in this country, are quite able to successfully deal with the matter, is a question which I do not propose to argue, but that there is a tendency to deal too leniently with offending owners is apparent to all close observers. It may be that some officials are afraid of causing scandal if they hew too close to the line. Again, I am afraid that the personal interests of track owners are sometimes allowed to influence the judgment of those who are expected to deal out strict justice without fear, favour or affection being allowed to influence their decisions. The ruinous results from allowing bookmakers to do business at tracks where they own horses competing in the races, has been illustrated at nearly every course on the other side and the injurious combination has had much to do with the present condition across the border.

I have no doubt it will be said by some officials that such a state of affairs does not exist on this side, and that they have expressly taken action to prevent such a combination. I do not deny their statement, but I do declare that in many instances their orders have not been obeyed. Bogus transfers of horses have been made by bookmakers to friends and these in many instances have been done in such clumsy fashion that it was easy of detection if inquired into.