

to say that the object of the Bill is not to suppress betting, but only some forms of race-track gambling," Mr. Miller replied: "I am glad that question has been asked. It does endeavor to suppress entirely the business of race-track gambling, but we have carefully *avoided any attempt to suppress the making of private bets between private individuals.*"

#### **SECOND READING—MR. AYLESWORTH'S ATTACK.**

The Minister of Justice, in the debate on the second reading, made a speech strongly criticising the Bill. In opening his address, as reported in Hansard, Column 937, he said: "In essence the thing struck at in the Bill under consideration is the making or taking part in a bet. Now the trouble is that the making of a bet is not considered by a large portion of the people in this country to be in itself a crime, and by this legislation, which is now proposed, as by legislation already on our Statute Books, you are making by Statute, that thing a criminal offence, which in the eyes of the average citizen is not an evil thing." He then compares race-track betting with the playing of marbles for keeps by boys, with the buying and selling of stock, and with ordinary life insurance, apparently seeing no essential ethical distinction as between betting and these other transactions. He goes on to criticise the draftsmanship of the Bill, and especially to make game of the definition of 'place' which definition read: "The word 'place' as used in this section and in the preceding section, includes any place, whether enclosed or not, and whether it is or is not a fixed place, and whether there is or is not exclusive right of user." He took very special exception to the phrase "whether it is or is not a fixed place," and concluded by calling the proposed Bill, especially this part of it, "verbal trickery."

#### **REFERRED TO SELECT COMMITTEE.**

The Bill was however, given its second reading, and referred to a select committee consisting of Mr. H. H. Miller, afterwards appointed Chairman, and Messrs. J. B. McColl, F. D. Monk, R. Blain, J. R. Stratton, J. H. Sinclair, W. M. Martin, (Regina).

#### **ALTERATION TO MEET OBJECTIONS OF MR. AYLESWORTH.**

In view of the criticism by the Minister of Justice of the form of the Bill, and particularly of the definition of the word "place," Mr. Miller, and subsequently Messrs. Raney and Shearer, representatives of the Moral and Social Reform Council of Canada, had conference with the Honorable Minister, and asked him whether his objections to the form of the Bill would be met if for the phrase, "whether it is or is not a fixed place," there was substituted "whether it is used permanently or temporarily." To Mr. Miller, and subsequently to Messrs. Raney and Shearer, the Minister replied to this question that his "objection would be met."