

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

For several months prior to the opening of the Season rumors were afloat about a possible legislative movement against the continuance of racing, but it was not anticipated that any drastic action would be taken as applicable to this year, since all Clubs and horse breeders had been permitted to complete preparations and make contracts for the usual Meetings. The Order-in-Council therefore, prohibiting race meetings with the *pari-mutuel* privileges after August 1st certainly came as a surprise and caused great dislocation of both plans and finances among all Jockey Clubs, but especially with our own organization which has had a severe struggle for existence.

This Club has not been run for profit and the shareholders have not complained although they have had only a 6 per cent. return in four years or, at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum; the object being to initiate fashionable and clean sport in Ottawa and to encourage thoroughbred horse breeding, that policy has been strictly adhered to.

No fault can be found with the Government for the action taken as exaggerated reports came to them from various sources and everything appertaining to racing was placed in a false light; in fact, incidents of a mere sporting character were made to appear almost as crimes and the extraordinary feature of the situation was that not a word of defence was ever uttered by the Clubs or the Associations, on the supposition that the Government would not be influenced by these reports. The work of so called "Social Reformers" was pursued with