

1-2 GEORGE V., A. 1911

Q. That might be true but the same thing would not apply to Detroit and to the opening of the Windsor race track.—A. I do not know, I was on that track twenty years ago.

Q. I think not. My information is that it was started in 1895—I do not mean the track, but the American invasion?—A. The Windsor track I do not think was ever owned by Americans.

Q. I do not say that it was, but that the Americans came over in 1895?—A. There was a Windsor Racing Track and a Windsor Jockey Club in 1889, I think.

Q. I will read you from the Encyclopædia Britannica, the American edition: 'In 1895 some American promoters established themselves at Windsor, Ontario, just across the river from Detroit, and brought the sport into great disrepute in that part of the province.' Do you dispute that?—A. I do, certainly.

Q. You are prepared to dispute that good authority?—A. I am prepared to dispute anything that does not agree with my own experience.

Q. Has this sport been brought into disrepute?—A. With whom?

Q. With anybody, the public at large?—A. There is an incurable prejudice against racing with some people.

Q. Has racing been brought into disrepute among people in any way?—A. No.

Q. Do you know Mr. A. H. Clarke, of Essex?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you hear his speech?—A. I heard his speech read.

Q. Do you know what he says?—A. I am not very clear as to what he did say.

Q. This is what he said. (Reads):

I happen to reside in a city where we have horse races, where there is a great deal of betting, and I can say that there is no greater curse to the community than this race track. The horse races are incidental; the gambling and betting is the main issue. I know nothing that has ruined more young men in that vicinity than this very race track. It has been my experience to have to prosecute several young men who were in trusted positions, but who had squandered the money of their employers, all traceable to this race track.

What do you think of that?—A. That is Mr. Clarke's view, and he is entitled to it.

Q. Do you dispute it?—A. Do I dispute that it was a great curse to the community?

Q. He was there at the time?—A. I am saying that is his view.

Q. He was the prosecuting attorney at the time?—A. Yes.

Q. He ought to know?—A. Yes.

Q. And he ought to know better than you?—A. Yes.

Q. I thought so. He says horse racing was incidental to the gambling?—A. That is a great error. To my knowledge of the Windsor track at that time there was a pool room outside the Windsor race course.

Q. You need not speak about anything outside the Windsor race course?—A. I think that is what he was referring to.

Q. No, no. 'I know of nothing that has ruined more young men in that vicinity than this very race track.' What do you think of that?—A. Is he speaking from his knowledge?

Q. Is not his knowledge a better knowledge than yours?—A. I know he goes to the track himself; he should know.

Q. 'Squandered the money of their employers, all traceable to this race track.' Surely, when we think of all the misery and unhappiness that has been caused by this gambling on the race track, we require more stringent legislation than we have at present?—A. Mr. Clarke has probably changed his mind under improved conditions.

Q. You think the conditions have improved?—A. They have been improved. I think there were meetings there for longer periods than I would have favoured.

Q. Were the meetings all properly conducted?—A. All that I have any knowledge of.