

*By Mr. McCarthy:*

Q. The bookmaking business is not a mere clerical operation, is it?—A. No.

Q. What does it require?—A. It requires what a great many bookmakers have not got, a very considerable capital, that is, as it is operated now, and very much greater ability than most of them possess.

Q. And their mental capacity requires to be high?—A. My experience is that if the bookmakers are allowed to go on for a short time longer they will eliminate themselves, and this question will settle itself; bookmaking as conducted on the race-course nowadays is a losing business. I think I can count on the fingers of one hand the number of men who in ten years I have known to make race course bookmaking a success. The public gets the money.

Q. Then the bookmaker has to have mental capacity and to understand his business in order to be a success?—A. He must.

Q. And if the Jockey Club employ men to make the books if they did not want to lose money they would have to get men of superior mental capacity understanding the business?—A. They would.

*By Mr. Blain:*

Q. Wouldn't they eliminate one of the chief grounds of complaint from the public standpoint by so doing?

Mr. McCARTHY.—You might think so, but if you put the Jockey Club into an industrial enterprise, betting with the public, would that be proper?

Mr. BLAIN.—I am not assuming that it would be proper or that it would not.

*By Mr. McCarthy:*

Q. Have there been any complaints with reference to some of the tracks that you know of, some of the American tracks where they try to make their own books and there was complaint that they should not do it?—A. There is a very decided objection, to my mind, to the people who control the races also controlling the betting, and then again you will not get the competition. The public will get better odds if there are twenty or thirty bookmakers aiming to get the business, and the only way they can get the business is by offering inducements in the shape of better odds. If the business of making the odds were confined to the one person, or to the representatives of one interest only, the bookmaker would get his money in as cheaply as possible, and where the odds should be ten to one he might offer only five to one.

*By Mr. Blain:*

Q. Pardon me, one of my points was that the complaint is made that if the bookmakers were closed up the average public who go to the races will not have an opportunity to bet for the reason that they do not want to look up their neighbour in order to make a bet with him, that is the point.

*By Mr. McCarthy:*

Q. Then in that case the Woodbine Association would be betting with their patrons without competition, and the odds would be whatever price the Woodbine chose to set?—A. Whatever price they chose to set.

Q. Now, Mr. Nelson, while you are the sporting editor of the 'Globe,' your experience has not been confined to one branch of the sport?—A. No.

Q. What various branches of sport have you had experience in?—A. Well, almost every branch of sport except golf.

Q. Have you occupied positions in the various amateur associations of Canada, and if so, in what sporting associations?—A. I am honorary president of the Canadian Lacrosse Association, I was vice-president of the Ontario Hockey Association, and have been a member of the executive for seven or eight years, I was president of the Toronto Foot-ball League, and I am president of the Ontario Skating Association,