

1-2 GEORGE V., A. 1911

Q. From your own experience, would you think that a developed sire would produce better stock than an undeveloped one?—A. That is my opinion, from the experience I have had. I base my experience in this way, that in the standard-bred horses that I buy after I have purchased the horse I generally inquire as to his breeding, and I have noted his breeding and his action, and his speed, and his way of going, that is the way I have of getting at it.

*By Mr. Blain:*

Q. Will the stock degenerate after leaving the track?—A. Well, I claim that if you do away with the track you do away with your development to a certain extent. You certainly cannot acquire on the stone roads which we have throughout this country—you would ruin your horse before you could get him to that stage of development—you cannot acquire that speed which you would get on the track. We have throughout this country as good horses, we have as experienced drivers and handlers of horses who make that a study, and if you see fit to place your horse in their hands you get the benefit of their experience and judgment.

Q. Then do I understand your opinion, Dr. Routledge, to be that with the passage of this Bill and the suppression of betting, the standard-bred industry will be seriously affected?—A. I think so, but this is rather a serious position to be placed in just now. I believe in moral reform, and I admit that according to some of the evidence that I have heard here, I have watched the evidence fairly closely for the last two days, all those who attend the horse races are of degraded character, and I certainly do not want my photograph in the Rogues' Gallery. But to give my candid opinion now according to my experience, if I could see eye to eye with some of the others who have given testimony here probably I would feel like blaming myself for what I have already said, but I am pleased to say that I cannot agree with them.

*By Mr. Beaton:*

Q. Your experience has been that the patrons of the trotting meet are as respectable as any other large crowd?—A. I have attended a great many race meetings, a great many fairs, and a great many large gatherings, and I can say honestly that I have never seen anything more degrading on a race track at the meetings I have attended than I have at other large gatherings. I will admit that probably there may have been things which should not have been done and things that none of us would approve of, but I have never seen anything of that sort. There are many institutions that have people who do things they should not do, but that is no reason why we should condemn the whole thing because somebody does wrong. For my part I have never seen anything at a race meet anything more detrimental to a man's moral character than I have at other large gatherings or at our exhibitions.

Q. At these various race meetings that occur throughout the province during the year has it been your experience that there is betting at most of them?—A. Yes.

Q. Even at some of the county fairs?—A. Well, I think—

Q. You might distinguish between open betting and betting by friends?—A. There has been no open betting at any fairs I have attended, but I think there is betting at all race meetings.

Q. Whether at fairs—?—A. Or on the tracks, but there is no open betting at any fairs I have attended.

*By Mr. Blain:*

Q. No open bookmaking?—A. Not to my knowledge. There may have been bookmaking but I did not know of it.

Q. Would you say there is a considerable amount of betting at the average county fair in the province of Ontario?—A. I am satisfied there is betting wherever there is a horse race. There is betting wherever there is any race or prize fight or anything of that kind, it is human nature.