

THE RECENT ANTI-RACETRACK-GAMBLING CAMPAIGN.

Report of Mr. W. E. Raney, K.C., and Rev. J. G. Shearer, D.D.

INTERVIEWS.

In December, 1907, a delegation waited upon the Right Honorable, the Prime Minister, and the Honorable, the Minister of Justice, requesting, *inter alia*, that the Government should ask Parliament to amend the Criminal Code making *the business of race-track gambling* unlawful. At that interview it was made clear that so far as the Moral and Social Reform Council was concerned, it did not desire to see Legislation passed making it a crime for one private individual to bet with another upon a horse-race or other event; that whatever opinion the members of the Council might hold upon the ethics of betting, *per se*, they did not consider it a proper subject for Criminal Legislation. At every subsequent interview, either with the Minister of Justice, or with the Prime Minister, or with other members of the Cabinet, this distinction was clearly drawn and repeatedly emphasized.

CORRESPONDENCE.

This was made clear also in various communications addressed to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice. In a communication addressed to the Minister of Justice, of date 9th January, 1908, this request for Legislation is pressed for, and its import indicated in the following language: "making unlawful *the business of negotiating bets* on race-courses and elsewhere." In another communication, of date 11th February, 1908, it is referred to as "making the business of negotiating bets on race-courses clearly unlawful." In a letter to the Prime Minister, of date 28th March, 1908, asking for certain other amendments, the following sentences occur: "In addition to these three amendments is one that we regard as extremely important, which you may recollect was asked for by a delegation that waited upon you last Autumn, or early Winter. It is that the Criminal Code should be amended so as to make the business of negotiating bets on race-courses, that is, the work of the bookmaker, clearly unlawful." In another letter to the Prime Minister, of date 2nd June, 1909, the following sentence occurs: "As you know, it is *not betting per se*, but *the business of the professional bookmaker*, which we have asked you to have prohibited. This is now unlawful anywhere else, but on the race-track." And on 12th October, 1909, a letter was sent in which the following sentences occur: "The Council desires the Government to ask Parliament to amend the Code as follows:—Regarding the business of race-track and other betting, their request is that the business of betting on the race-track, under all circumstances, and the business of gambling in all forms elsewhere than on the race-track should be entirely