

duced by the government are of special importance, whether some of them may not very properly be dropped.

Mr. BORDEN. I will give consideration to the suggestion of the right hon. gentleman. I would not think that the Bill which has just been introduced by the Minister of Justice would be controversial. As I understand it the provisions of the Bill simply amount to this: No such privilege shall be extended to a race track association unless it is incorporated either by this parliament or by a provincial parliament. It did not seem to me that a provision of this kind ought to involve a great deal of discussion. However, I will give the matter consideration.

Mr. CARVELL. I may be a little out of order, but I do not think the Prime Minister quite apprehended the question I put to him. To be plain, I am credibly informed that there have been, and probably are now pending, applications for the incorporation of joint stock companies under the Companies Act for the purpose of operating race-tracks. I would like to know whether these applications will be granted before this Bill goes into force?

Mr. DOHERTY. I understand that there were pending two such applications for incorporation by letters patent, and that they were granted yesterday. I understand that there are no pending applications. And the precise object of this Bill is to put an end to the situation in which it can be seriously contended—and, speaking for myself, I think quite correctly contended—that the Secretary of State has no option where the conditions of the Act are complied with, but is bound to issue the letters patent.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Would not the Minister of Justice (Mr. Doherty) state the names of these new associations which were granted letters patent yesterday? And would he be pleased to inform the House if there is anything in this new legislation enlarging the privileges and powers enjoyed by racing associations? I am one of those who voted in this House for the Miller Bill, that is to say restrictions upon gambling at race-tracks. I am not what I may call—without offence to any one, I hope—a puritan; but still I am opposed to gambling and betting and voted for the Miller Bill as a compromise measure which I thought should be satisfactory to those people who believe that facilities should be afforded for horse-racing, because of the influence of the sport in the direction of improving the breed of horses. At the

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same time, I must tell my hon. friend that if there is anything in this legislation to increase the privileges and powers of these associations he will find that there is strong objection in the country at large to any such changes.

Mr. DOHERTY. As to the names of the companies to which letters patent were issued, that is a matter in the Secretary of State's Department, and I have not the names at hand at the moment. As to the other matter, I may point out that the purpose is, and the effect is, entirely restrictive. It will provide that in future no race-track association shall be created with these privileges unless it is created by a special Act of this parliament or of the legislature of the province in which it is situated. Thus, in the future, parliament or a legislature will pronounce in each particular case whether the new race-track association is to receive these privileges, instead of leaving the law as at present so that anybody desiring letters patent for this purpose may apply to the Secretary of State and, on conforming with the requirements of the Act, receive a charter carrying with it, under the law, the privileges referred to.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I think my right hon. friend (Mr. Borden) will see that this Bill, like all similar Bills will be productive of long discussion.

Mr. BORDEN. I do not think so, when it is understood.

Mr. MURPHY. I would ask the government, before we proceed with the Bill in committee, to furnish the names of the companies that were incorporated yesterday, and also the dates from which applications have been pending.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

PRISONS AND REFORMATORIES ACT AMENDMENT.

Hon. C. J. DOHERTY (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 166) to amend the Prisons and Reformatories Act. He said: This Bill will have application only in the province of British Columbia. The purpose is to extend to an industrial school for girls for which the British Columbia legislature has just made provision the same privileges and rules that already, under the Prisons and Reformatories Act, apply to similar institutions in the province of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba. The sections of the Bill are all reproduced from the provisions ap-