

Hon. Mr. WHITE: Some special newspapers, I understand.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The honourable gentleman says "crank." We all are sometimes disposed to describe thus anyone with whom we differ, or who has advanced ideas on any question. There is a history behind this proposed amendment. We have had the section before us a couple of times in the last six or seven years. In 1923 there was a demand raised in the other House for the abolition of the pari-mutuels. Mr. Good, a member of Parliament, sought more stringent regulations than are provided in the Code, and the other House rejected his proposals by a small majority. The reason he was not successful was that the Minister of Justice at the time, the late Sir Lomer Gouin, stated that he was not disposed to recommend Mr. Good's Bill, because of representations that had been made to him from various sources. I do not know whether the present amendment was introduced by the late Sir Lomer Gouin before his withdrawal from the Department, or whether his successor, Hon. Mr. Lapointe, is responsible for it. However, the amendment now before us was passed by the other House. I do not know what criticism, if any, was made of it there, nor whether it was carried unanimously. I believe that we are simply legislating along the same lines that we have followed in the past, in an attempt to curb the betting tendency in the land.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: Mr. Chairman, I think this clause is one that might very well be eliminated from the Bill. This is a type of puritanical enactment that only adds to the "thou shalt not" class of legislation, of which we already have sufficient on the Statute Book. If the result of the passage of this clause were to be, as my honourable friend suggests, a curtailment of betting, there might possibly be two opinions on the subject. But to my mind it does not curtail it. The clause legitimizes the publishing of odds and all the other classes of information. If you go to the Woodbine you will find 25,000 people who have access to all the information, tips, odds on the horses, and so on; but the minute you step outside the gate that information is proscribed, and the only source from which the people can get it is the newspapers. This section deals in a general way not only with Canadian race tracks, but with racing in the Old Country, in the United States—anywhere. The English newspaper which gives the weight and the betting odds and so forth, as some of them do months before an important race, would come under this clause. Any man who

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was in possession of a newspaper—the London Times or any other—containing information of that kind, and who exhibited it to a friend, would be liable to a heavy fine or imprisonment. The same thing would be true of a man who had the New York Times or some such American newspaper containing information about races in that country. It strikes me that the clause not only provides against the advertising and the giving of information, and so on, with regard with races to be held, but also applies to information about races that have been held. To my mind that is a ridiculous provision to put into the Criminal Code. I would therefore move that it be struck out.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: I have been waiting patiently for some time in the hope that someone would indicate just what this provision is aimed at. As soon as I saw the language of it, I thought I knew. I remember that I originally suggested a measure of this kind to Sir Lomer Gouin when he was Minister of Justice. What for? Not to deal with horse-races. Not at all! Just look at the language, if you please.

Betting or wagering upon any fight, game, sport or race.

I have been expecting that some honourable gentleman here would know all about what this was aimed at, and would tell the story. As a matter of fact, an organization that has been produced, largely, I think, as a result of section 98 of the Criminal Code, which in your wisdom you declined to repeal a few minutes ago, has, it is said, for many years been making hundreds of thousands of dollars—the sinews of war—by conducting betting campaigns on football, baseball and other games. I know only what I have been told, but it is said that they have a fund of well over a million dollars, and that they are able to get any amount of money from various sources for betting on these games. That is what our deceased friend, Sir Lomer Gouin, set out to deal with a number of years ago, and it is my understanding that the provision was not in sufficiently definite language, and that this section has been framed to meet the situation. I had been expecting to hear that statement made during the discussion on this section. That is my understanding of what is involved.

Hon. Mr. FORKE: I should like the honourable the senior member for Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Belcourt) to explain the meaning of the words:

advertises, prints, publishes, exhibits, posts up, sells or supplies, or offers to sell or supply any