

Mr. Knowles: Not mine.

Mr. Gardiner: I am telling you how you can do it if you want to at any time.

An hon. Member: He only bets on sure things.

Mr. Gardiner: The money goes into a pool. This law says that those who are conducting the racing cannot take out more than nine per cent if the amount going into the pool is \$20,000 or less, and seven per cent, six per cent, five per cent, and so on as the betting increases. They cannot take any more than that out. Then it says that the public must get a certain amount. There is a leeway in between where the provinces take something by way of taxation. During the war we took it, and at the end of the war we amended the act again to turn it back to the provinces. The provinces can take it if they wish to do so. In some places they do, and in others they do not. We simply put a man there to check on all the money that goes into the pool, and then we check on the way in which it is disposed of. So long as the public get their share divided among those who win, we are satisfied; if they do not, we stop the betting. What we are suggesting is that we are going to apply that to another type of racing. The regulations were imposed in the first place to limit betting to what I have been describing. As the situation is today, betting can take place on trotters and pacers throughout the country without any supervision or regulation at all.

Mr. McLure: Not in all provinces.

Mr. Gardiner: Except what the provinces may carry on. A check is not made as it is with runners. These people say that they want the same check, and all we say is that in drafting the terms of the act we do not want to give those racing trotters and pacers any advantage over the runners; otherwise the racing runners will simply come back and ask for the same advantage, and we will have the one bidding against the other. What I would like to check up before agreeing to twelve heats is that we are not giving any such advantage, which would run us into difficulties all along the line. I have a feeling, without checking it, that we would be, though I am not absolutely convinced of it.

I have placed all the facts before the committee. If the committee thinks this restriction is required, that is quite satisfactory to us. If they think we should check further and make sure of it, I am prepared to do so and allow the bill to stand until later.

Mr. Riley: I would agree with the hon. member for Pontiac and the hon. member for Montmagny-L'Islet. All through the maritime provinces harness racing has been a

major sport for generations. At many of our tracks they run four races of three heats each. Even if they do not do that every day, they may be rained out one day and spread the card for that day over the next few days, and thus run four races daily of three heats each. The danger we see is that we have the controlled pari-mutuel system of betting, and if this restriction is placed on the races held it will tend to encourage bookmaking at many tracks in the maritimes. If the public is not permitted to bet at the wickets under the controlled pari-mutuel system, there is the great danger of bookmakers coming in and establishing that vicious practice which flourishes in other parts of the country. We have no bookmaking today in the maritime provinces, and we do not want it; but there is the grave danger that if the ten-heat restriction is placed on pari-mutuel betting at our tracks, we may very well be faced with this problem. I hope the minister will bear that in mind when considering this section.

Mr. Lesage: In view of what the minister has said, I move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again this day.

Mr. Gardiner: Would the hon. member agree that we consider the remainder of the bill as passed and allow subsection (2)(d) to stand for further consideration? Then the committee might report progress and I will bring the bill in later.

Mr. Lesage: I agree.

Mr. Pearkes: Can the minister give an assurance that this bill will be brought back this session and not left over until another session?

Mr. Gardiner: It will be brought in just as soon as the Minister of Public Works can give me the time.

Section stands.

Motion (Mr. Lesage) agreed to.

Progress reported.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

PROVISION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LINE FROM SHERRIDON TO LYNN LAKE, MAN.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure conferring authority upon the governor in council to authorize the Canadian National Railway Company to construct a line of railway from Sherridon to Lynn Lake, in the province of Manitoba, a distance of approximately 155 miles at an estimated expenditure of \$14,725,000 and an average expenditure of \$95,000 per mile. The measure will make provision