

# House of Commons Debates

FIRST SESSION—TWELFTH PARLIAMENT.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, March 20, 1912.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Eleven o'clock.

### CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT.

Mr. DOHERTY moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 165) amending the Criminal Code.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Explain.

Mr. DOHERTY. The purpose of this Bill is to amend subsection 2 of section 235 of the Criminal Code as enacted by section 3, of chapter 10 of the Statutes of 1910. The subsection referred to contains the provision exempting persons from the penalties of the code for gambling, in cases of betting on the race track of a duly incorporated racing association. The entire purpose of this amendment is for the future to restrict the privilege allowed with regard to betting upon the race tracks to tracks of racing associations incorporated either by Act of this parliament, or by an Act of the legislature of any one of the provinces in which the association may exist. In other respects the privilege, and its conditions remain as they were. That is, the entire change that is desired to be effected is to create a situation where the mere obtaining of an incorporation under the general Letters Patent Act will not confer in the future upon racing associations the privilege granted by the section in question of the Criminal Code.

Mr. CARVELL. Will this Bill affect applications now pending for incorporation under the Companies Act?

Mr. DOHERTY. The Bill will apply to race track associations incorporated by Letters Patent on and after this date.

Mr. CARVELL. It is hardly an answer to the question, but I will raise the matter again when we are in committee on the Bill.

Mr. DOHERTY. I will be very glad to answer the question. Perhaps I did not correctly catch the hon. gentleman's meaning.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I intended upon reaching the Orders of the Day to ask the Prime Minister what further legislation it is intended to introduce. Perhaps I may now anticipate that question and we may have a discussion at this moment upon the matter. There is, I believe, a general desire on both sides of the House to bring the session to an early close within a legitimate period which I will not further mention. The Minister of Justice, however, has just introduced this Bill to amend the Criminal Code, and there are six or seven other Bills on the order paper, all government measures. I presume that no one of these Bills is of very great importance. At all events, whether important or not, they may perhaps suggest a good deal of discussion. Take this Bill to amend the Criminal Code, for instance. We all know from our experience of the past, that the moment a Bill is introduced with regard to race tracks it has always been productive of very lengthy discussion, and I am afraid that if we take this Bill this session, important or unimportant though it may be, it may add greatly to the length of the session. I would, therefore, suggest to my right hon. friend the advisability of considering, unless the measures to be intro-