

Every right thinking and law abiding citizen of this Country looks to him to enforce those laws which they have given expression to, and no Police Officer can claim to have lived up to the level of his duty towards the public, if after taking oath and accepting public money he fails to do his utmost to bring gamblers to Justice.

Especially is this necessary to-day, when the Police Officer is liable to be made the scapegoat in the public mind of spineless and incompetent Crown Officers, and unscrupulous timeserving politicians.

By a consistent and fearless carrying out of the law in respect to gambling, he can do more than anyone else to make it clear to the public where the game lies, if these dangerous and demoralizing elements in society go unpunished, and thus compel the law-makers to amend legislation where it is defective in expressing in exact legal phraseology the clear way of the people.

I would therefore recommend that this Association after due discussion and mature deliberation take such action as in their judgment will best conserve and definitely demonstrate the purpose for which this organization stands.

High Constable Bissonnette: I wish to ask if the King of England did not win the great horse race in England this year.

Inspector Archibald: Probably Mr. Bissonnette has misunderstood my paper. We are responsible for our own acts and the carrying out of our own obligations. It is not so much a question of morals. If the people we are protecting are to be served faithfully, we must carry out the laws that are placed on the Statutes. It is no justification for our neglect to say "others do wrong".

High Constable Bissonnette: I only ask if it is true that the King of England won the great horse race in England this year.

Inspector Archibald: The newspapers said he did.

High Constable Bissonnette: That is all I want to know.

Secretary Treasurer: It is not a question of morals, as the last speaker has said, but a question of law. We want the law, whatever it may be, put in such shape that we can enforce it and not have the people come to us and say we are not doing our duty. As this law stands now, one Court says it means one thing and another Court says it means something else, why then should the police be made a laughing stock of, by their attempts to enforce such a law. (Applause.) The Courts have said that it is illegal for a book-maker to occupy a stand on a race-track, so the book-maker in order to evade the law removes the stand and keeps moving about on the space formerly occupied by the stand, and the law says that is not illegal because he does not occupy a place; now imagine, if you can, a greater absurdity. If you stand on a box and take bets you are guilty of an offence, but if you kick the box away and move about on the space where it stood you are not guilty because you do not occupy a place.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

High Constable Twiss: Referring to Inspector Archibald's paper of this morning, I would like to ask what is a Chief Constable's duty as laid down in that paper?

Chief Clark: It is our duty to carry out the law as it appears on the Statute Book. If the people do not want such a law, remove it from the Statutes; if they do want it, then let us have it in proper form so that we can carry it out intelligently.

High Constable Twiss: When a man has broken the law it is my duty to have him in Court (if it

comes within my jurisdiction). I do not think it is for us to say that the Judges are wrong, or for me to tell the people and Judges that they are wrong, and I am right, it is for me to abide by the decision of the Courts.

Chief Rideout: I agree with Inspector Archibald's paper. There are many inconsistencies in the laws which are difficult to reconcile with common sense. Many of our Courts are all right, but some are inclined to be lenient with the influential. It is up to us to get after the law makers, show them the weak points and ask that they be strengthened.

Chief Chamberlin: I do not think we are called upon to do more than point out the defects, and if it is not thought fit to remedy them, then we can only enforce them as far as they will go. So long as we do our whole duty, whether we secure a conviction or not, we cannot be seriously found fault with.

High Constable Twiss: In Wentworth County we are in a somewhat similar position to Toronto. We have had race-track gamblers up and got beaten, so we are now watching Toronto's next move. Gamblers will do anything to get over the law, they get the advice of the best lawyers and if you stop them gambling one way, then they gamble another, and if they cannot sit or stand and do it, then they will move about and do it. The question of race-track gambling has been before Parliament for a long time. The religious people of the Country are against it, so are the Chief Constables, but we have been beaten in the Courts on the law as it now stands. When the Judges of Appeal say that betting as at present conducted is legal, what right have we to say it is not. Why should we condemn the Judges when they rule according to their interpretation of the law? I think it is up to us to acquiesce and not say they are wrong and we are right.

Chief Sleeman: We all know that the followers of the race-track will take advantage of every loop hole and I think the absurdity of the present situation has been fully exemplified. We can only carry out the law as given to us, and if found unworkable use our influence to have it amended. We are not finding fault with the Judges but with a law that is capable of such an absurd interpretation.

Chief Newton: Inspector Archibald is not against horse-racing but against gambling. I take issue with Chief Twiss, I think if we find a law on the Statute Books that we have difficulty in carrying out by reason of a difference of opinion between Judges, it is our duty to point it out to the law-makers and ask that it be changed so that we can enforce the law as intended.

High Constable Boyle: The law in question was passed by the Dominion Parliament, and if not workable surely it is our duty to ask our Legislation Committee to try and have it changed.

High Constable Twiss: I am opposed to betting as much as anyone here, but I do not think the Judges are all wrong, nor do I say they are all right. I think it out of place to have our records say that the Chief Constables' Association of Canada think some of the Judges of Canada are technical Judges.

Chief Kimmins: Would it not be in the interest of the Association to petition the Minister of Justice to amend the law as suggested?

Chief Lancey: If the Courts have decided that race-track gambling is legal, in what way do the Chief Constables suffer?

Chief Sleeman: The morals of the Country suffer, and the police suffer in their reputation, while the Courts are disputing, some holding that it is legal, others that it is illegal.