

business developed to such an extent in large towns and cities that police magistrates reported against it to the various attorneys general and the Minister of Justice. Young men were pilfering from their employers in order to bet during the noon hour. In my place in this Chamber I moved that the exception to the Code which was used as a cloak for this business be stricken out. There was a formidable lobby of members of the other House on behalf of various so-called art associations who were opposed to my amendment to the Code, but the amendment was adopted.

This Bill seeks to curb betting among our people and to limit the game of chance, in so far as it affects horse-racing, to people who attend the races. It will be contended that if the section does become law it will be ineffective. We were told in committee three or four years ago that we could not prevent information in regard to horse racing from coming from the United States over telegraph wires, telephones and the radio. While admitting there is some force in that contention, I think that this section, if passed, would minimize the evils of betting in our country, where many people are fascinated by the idea of making easy money.

Hon. SMEATON WHITE: I think my honourable friend will admit that horse-racing is a national sport in Great Britain, France and other countries. This section would prohibit Canadian papers from announcing or reporting anything concerning horse-races. I think the section goes far beyond what the honourable gentleman says is the intention. I consider that it is unworkable, and I would suggest that it be dropped or held over until next year. The honourable gentleman might say whether he knows of any people who are asking for this. I am informed that there are some who are specially interested in this matter, but the agitation is very confined. There is no general demand for the amendment, so far as I can ascertain. My understanding is that certain newspapers are asking for this legislation.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I do not see that the advertising of horse-racing, which the papers have been in the habit of publishing, would be restricted in the least.

Hon. Mr. WHITE: It would, under this section.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I doubt very much whether any newspaper, under this section, would be prevented from advertising races at Connaught Park, or at the Blue Bonnets in Montreal.

Hon. Mr. WHITE: The section prohibits the publication of:

Any tips, selections, odds, winning money prices, pari-mutuel payments, or any similar intelligence.

That means the reports from the races.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: Honourable senators, I had not intended to speak on this matter, for the reason that I am, and have been for many years, President of the Connaught Park Jockey Club. I am not going to speak for or against the section; I wish merely to be allowed to explain to the committee what is really intended by the amendment. I am not sure whether it is strictly in conformity with the present law to advertise tips, selections, odds, and so on, but at all events that has been the practice. Whoever drafted this legislation desired to go a great deal farther than preventing the publication of such information—

Hon. Mr. GORDON: It is not the Connaught Club that wants the legislation?

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: I do not think so. What is desired is not only the prevention of tips and selections being published in advance of races. Generally there are seven races in a day. This section would prevent anyone from publishing the names of the winners of each race, and the money that was won on the horses that came in first, second and third in each race. The publication of such information has never been prohibited before. As I have said, I am not going to argue one way or the other; I have spoken merely because I think it is necessary that the Committee should know just what is the purport of the proposed amendment. Possibly only one who is a horseman can really understand the section. While nobody would be allowed to publish the names of the winning horses or the amounts of the money won, races would be permitted just the same.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have always been told that those who placed bets on horse-races got their pleasure from observing the performance of the horses and not from the winning of any money. The object of this section is to minimize the evils of betting. Betting on horse-races has been given legal sanction; and this is an attempt to curb the betting evil by confining the betting to those who attend the races. In order to bet they must be in attendance at the race itself; they must be within the enclosure. My honourable friend from Inkerman (Hon. Mr. White) has stated that this legislation has not been asked for by the public, but by some—

Hon. Mr. GORDON: Crank?