

1-2 GEORGE V., A. 1911

Q. Perhaps Juarez may be on a better and higher plane?—A. Possibly, I cannot give you any information on that point.

Q. Do you think there is any improvement necessary in connection with these Canadian racing association tracks?—A. I have never seen any institution that I would say was perfect. I think if I had sole control of almost anything with which I am connected I could make some changes. Whether those changes would be improvements or not would be determined by the results.

Q. Can you suggest any improved method apart from the Pari-mutuel?—A. I do not believe there will be any objection from any persons if the bookmakers, or whoever do the betting, are put in some place by themselves where there will be no crowding or jostling.

Q. Put on the stools as they were before, or something of that sort?—A. Put under such arrangement as the club could put them when they had power to locate them; in an obscure portion of the grounds.

Q. Why in an obscure place?—A. Because they wanted them out of the way.

Q. But they are the whole tip, as Mr. Clarke says?—A. Not to the jockey clubs, they are not the whole tip to the jockey clubs; that is another of those sayings I do not subscribe to.

Q. I thought from all your argument that from the financial point of view they were the whole outfit almost?—A. I do not think I offered any argument from the financial point of view at all.

Q. I understand that the jockey clubs could not exist without them?—A. They could not exist without the privilege of betting, I do not say they could not exist without the bookmakers.

Q. But why put them away in an obscure corner?—A. For the reason that it is desirable to put them there, I think.

Mr. McCARTHY.—You have been misrepresenting, from the first witness you put in the box, Mr. Raney, that we looked upon them as the mainstay. Nobody has said that, nobody has said that from this side of the House at all.—A. It is the policy of the clubs, as far as I know, to make the desirable and the more approved features of racing the more prominent. If the clubs could get along without anything that would have the least taint of undesirability they would be glad to do it.

Q. Then do you recognize it as having a taint of undesirability?—A. I recognize the necessity of betting, and I look upon the present system as being one which could be improved.

Q. If it could be got along without, bookmaking or any other system—A. Without any betting?

Q. If they could get along without any bookmaking would you like to see it done?—A. I would.

Q. So you think it would be an improvement if bookmaking could be abolished and the races could be financed on a sound basis?—A. As far as I am concerned I think it would be an improvement to have racing without betting, but I consider that to be quite an impracticable point to discuss.

Q. But if you did away with bookmaking there would be no betting?—A. I could not subscribe to that, you are going to have some betting.

*By Mr. Blain:*

Q. In what way would there be an improvement?—A. As the system is now such is the result of an attempt which I am going to take the liberty of describing as an attempt on the part of some people to deprive their fellow citizens of the privilege which I consider parliament granted them, the right and the liberty to bet on a race course. As the result of the attempt to suppress that and to prevent the people from enjoying that liberty which was given them, they have got such a twist in the law as might almost be compared to an effort to increase the spread of it. The clubs put the bookmaker out of sight as much as possible, but under that decision now they are