

OPEN FORUM OF THE PEOPLE

Observant Advertiser Readers With a Grievance, a Suggestion For Reform, a Good Word—Yes, and Sometimes a Grouch, State Their Views on Topics of the Hour in City and Nation and All Creation.

RACE TRACK GAMBLING.

To the Editor of the Advertiser:
In view of the discussion within and without parliament regarding the question of permanently banning the business of race track gambling under the criminal code, I am sending you here with certain publications containing important information. The four-page



One Standard of Service

"Do your officers treat every customer as courteously as you treat me?"
"Certainly, it does not matter how small a customer's account is—our aim is to make everyone feel at home."

In addition to good service Huron & Erie depositors receive the good interest rate of

3 1/2 %

per annum, added half-yearly. You also will be satisfied with our service.

Huron & Erie Mortgage Corporation

"Older Than the Dominion of Canada."

LONDON BRANCHES:
Richmond Street—
Charles J. Clarke, Manager.
Market Square—
Walter T. Westby, Manager.
T. G. Meredith, K.C., President.
Hume Cronyn, General Manager.

Trafford's Weekly Bulletin

Housecleaning Time Is Here

You will now want some new articles to brighten up the home. Let this old reliable furniture store fill your wants.

Our floors are crowded with a high grade stock at most reasonable prices. We invite you to stroll through our store tomorrow and look over this big display of home furnishings.

DINING-ROOM SPECIAL

FOR SATURDAY ONLY
This Suite Solid Cut Oak In Fumed Finish.

BUFFET \$23.00
DINERS \$22.00
5 small, 1 arm, upholstered brown Spanish leather

EX. TABLE \$24.00
On Sale Saturday Only

\$69.00

You may buy any one article here separately.

BABY CARRIAGES AND STROLLERS

Big new shipment just received. We now offer all the latest styles to choose from. Strollers from \$8.25 up, and Carriages from \$22.00 up. See This Display While the Assortment is Complete.

THE NEWEST IN BASSINETTES

Latest designs, in red and white enamel, rubber tired wheels. Just the thing for the veranda to get the baby out in the fresh air.

LET US HAVE YOUR UPHOLSTERING

Our work-room is in the hands of skilled mechanics, and we have now on display an immense assortment of dainty coverings for you to choose from. Phone and our man will call with samples and prices.

BEDROOM FURNITURE

Our bedroom department is crowded with all the latest designs, featuring suites in oak, mahogany, white enamel, walnut or French grey.

We Are Offering Many of These Suites at Attractive Prices.

BRASS BED SPECIALS

2-inch post, well filled, any size, in poliole or ribbon finish at prices from \$18 up.

Now Is the Time to Buy Rugs.

We have a very large and varied stock, in all sizes and qualities to choose from, Tapestry, Brussels, Axminsters, Wiltons and Velvets. Many at the old prices.

TRAFFORD'S FURNITURE CO.

11 Market Sq. 129 Dundas.

leaflet was issued only the other day, and contains the latest figures on the question. The leaflet is a most interesting study regarding earnings and ownership.

We have asked: NOT to have betting in itself made a crime; BUT that the business of race track gambling, as the business of gambling or betting anywhere, should be an offense under the criminal code. I am, yours very truly,
J. G. SHEPHERD,
General Secretary.

Toronto, March 31, 1919.

MEMORANDUM RE RACE TRACKS.

Ontario Clubs.

1. Ontario Jockey Club, Limited.

2. Metropolitan Racing Association of Canada, Limited, Dufferin Track, Toronto.

3. Toronto Driving Club, Incorporated, Hillcrest Track, Toronto.

4. Thorncliffe Park Racing and Breeding Association, Limited, Thorncliffe Park, Toronto.

5. Hamilton Jockey Club, Limited, Hamilton.

6. Niagara Racing Association, Limited, Fort Erie.

7. Windsor Jockey Club, Limited, Windsor.

8. Western Racing Association, Limited, DeWolfe Park, Windsor.

9. Kenilworth Jockey Club, Limited, Kenilworth Track, Windsor.

10. I have not been furnished with the names of the Quebec and British Columbia clubs, but the names of the tracks

are as follows:

1. Blue Bonnet, Montreal.

2. Dorval, Montreal.

3. Beek River, Montreal.

4. King Edward, Montreal.

5. Delorme, Montreal.

6. Maisonneuve, Montreal.

7. Ottawa, Hull.

8. British Columbia Tracks.

1. Mount Park, Vancouver.

2. The Willows, Victoria.

Speaking with reference to the Ontario clubs, and speaking of them under the names of the tracks by which they are more familiarly known, all of them, including the Woodbine, are run on a commercial basis, the shareholders receiving the net profits of the track.

The nine Ontario clubs are controlled by professional race track gamblers, five of the eight by professional gamblers from the United States.

Fort Erie Track.

John D. Madigan, president of the Niagara Racing Association, was in 1910, and presumably still is, part owner of the track.

He is a resident of the United States, and his address is Houston, Texas. In 1910, he was the principal owner of the track.

He described himself as a farmer at Fort Erie, and as a resident of the United States.

He was the principal owner of the track in 1910, and now the treasurer of the Fort Erie club, and Louis A. Cella, a director, are Missouri men who ran race tracks near St. Louis until the track there was closed as a result of Gov. Folk's anti-race track gambling law. John Gendron, the fourth Fort Erie director, was the principal owner of the track in 1910, and in a track at Emeryville, Cal., then being run in defiance of the law of that state, and in a track at Salt Lake City. The four men owned and controlled the Fort Erie track in 1910, and they, or their estates, still own and control it.

Windsor Jockey Club Track.

The American supplement to the ninth edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica in 1899 contains the following reference to this club:

"It was not until 1895 that an attempt was made to conduct a continuous meeting at any Canadian point. That year some American promoters established themselves at Windsor, Ont., just across the river from Detroit, Mich., and brought the sport into great disrepute in that corner of the province."

The district attorney's office at Brooklyn, N. Y., furnished me in 1910 with the following additional information about this track:

"Samuel Wagner, familiarly known as 'Sam' Wagner, a noted owner of gambling houses in Chicago and other parts of the country, was for several years the principal owner of the race track at Windsor. When the prosecuting attorney for Wayne County, Mich., started after the race track gamblers, the Highland Park Club, which had conducted racing at Highland Park, about seven miles north of Detroit, leased the Windsor track, and the races at Windsor are now run under the control of the Highland Park Club."

George M. Hendrie, president of the Ontario Jockey Club, Mr. George M. Hendrie and Mr. Walter C. Farmer are still in control of the Windsor club, and his evidence before the select committee of the House of Commons in 1910. Hon. Col. John S. (now Sir John) Hendrie stated that he and his brother George were in partnership.

Mr. George M. Hendrie is also a member of the Ontario Jockey Club. There has been no change in the ownership or management since 1910.

Kenilworth Track, Windsor.

The enormous profits of the Windsor Jockey Club could not be kept altogether a secret. There was in Manitoulin Island, in the constituency of Mr. R. R. Gurney, M.P., an innocent little club known as the Gore Bay Riding and Driving Park Association, Limited, with a capital stock of \$1,500, divided into shares of \$10 each. The charter of this association was acquired by Mr. Abram Orpen and Mr. George M. Hendrie, both directors of the Ontario Jockey Club. Mr. George M. Hendrie and Mr. Walter C. Farmer are still in control of the Windsor club, and his evidence before the select committee of the House of Commons in 1910. Hon. Col. John S. (now Sir John) Hendrie stated that he and his brother George were in partnership.

Mr. George M. Hendrie is also a member of the Ontario Jockey Club. There has been no change in the ownership or management since 1910.

Devonshire Track, Windsor.

This association operates under a Dominion charter originally issued in 1905 under the name of the Ontario Racing Association.

From the report of an action in the courts brought by Bernard P. Hepburn then M.P. for Prince Edward County in 1905, it appears that the association has paid \$10,000 on account of the purchase of the charter and had afterwards sold the charter to Grant Hugh Browne, a professional race track man of New York City. The company, then reorganized with Browne as president and Dr. Reaume, formerly minister of public works for the Province of Ontario, as vice-president, won a third track at Windsor and applied to the Ontario Government for a license to conduct race meetings, the province having after the amendment to the criminal code of 1910, enacted legislation imposing a license fee, which had been gradually advancing until in 1917 it amounted to \$1,250 per racing day for each track.

But the Hendrie interests having suffered one interloper in the shape of the Gurney-Orpen Kenilworth track, did not look kindly on a second, and as Messrs. Gurney and Orpen had not anticipated more than one rival for their money, the two interests joined forces to prevent a license issuing from the provincial treasury's department to the Browne-Reaume club and for some weeks a merry war was waged between rival political factions until the provincial treasurer was advised that under the law he had not any alternative but to grant a license to the new club. The new license was accordingly granted on the 23rd, September, 1916, and the first meeting on the new track was held in the autumn of that year.

Thorncliffe Track, Toronto.

This club was opened in the spring

of 1917 and was conducted only one meeting before the order-in-council meeting into effect. It is controlled by a gentleman known on the race tracks as "Gad" Bryan. He was also proprietor of a race track at Baltimore and is a professional race track man of some notoriety.

Dufferin Track, Toronto.

These are half-mile tracks controlled by Mr. Abram Orpen before referred to. They are the only tracks in Ontario where bookmaking is still carried on, the other tracks all having installed pari-mutual machines.

Woodbine Track, Toronto.

The Ontario Jockey Club was founded by gentlemen of the last generation, who were genuinely interested in horse breeding, and enjoyed the sport of horse racing for itself. It was not, therefore, in its origin a get-rich-quick proposition, and it is now the only club in the province that is not controlled by professional race track men. But having said that, it must be admitted that about the only other things to distinguish it from the other clubs at Fort Erie and Windsor are the high respectability of its directors, and the fact that its race meetings are society events, and conducted under distinguished patronage.

According to the last annual report filed in the office of the provincial secretary at Toronto, the directors consist of the following named gentlemen: Joseph E. Staggam, Lieut.-Col. William Hendrie, Major E. J. Christie, Geo. W. Beaudouin, A. E. Dymott, Lieut.-Col. Sir John H. Macdonald, G. C.V.G., Lieut.-Col. D. King Smith, M.D., Joseph Kilgour.

An important consideration is whether or not the names of eminent public men on the directorate of a club, that is in truth and in fact run as a common betting house, increases or lessens the essential vice of the thing. What does stand out with perfect clearness is that the present gentlemen sportsmen of the Woodbine track take their dividends on the same commercial basis as Mr. Orpen, Mr. Madigan and the professional gamblers from St. Louis, Chicago, Baltimore and elsewhere, who control the other tracks at Toronto, Hamilton, Fort Erie and Windsor.

Another subject for consideration is whether or not the social character of the events at the Woodbine and the fact that they are under distinguished patronage, is a plea in favor of that race track or an argument against it. In this connection it is, of course, quite impossible to overlook the fact that all the jockey clubs that were members of the Canadian Racing Association, including the Fort Erie, Windsor and Windsor tracks, had their apologetic letters on the floor of the House in 1910; or the other fact that the present magistrate of Ontario, and members of his family have for many years been the principal beneficiaries of the proceeds of the exception to the criminal code in favor of betting houses on the race tracks. Any memorandum in connection with this subject that failed to notice these facts would be an indictment of its own authors for cowardice.

Sir John Hendrie and his brother, George, succeeded in accomplishing the secure the defeat of the Miller bill, and with the assistance of Mr. Orpen and others, succeeded in accomplishing the defeat of the Miller bill, and with the assistance of Mr. Orpen and others, succeeded in accomplishing the defeat of the Miller bill.

The moment you feel a dull ache in the kidneys or your back hurts or if the urine is cloudy, offensive, full of irregular, irregular, or at the blood, thereby avoiding serious kidney complications.

At the time of the amendment to the criminal code of 1910 the Hendrie family owned about one-sixth of the stock of the Hamilton Jockey Club. Some time of the original shares, which cost \$40,

such has had occasion from time to time to sign supplementary letters patent whenever a few hundred thousand dollars more bonus stock was to be issued to one another of his betting house clubs.

The lieutenant-governor and members of his family are the largest individual shareholders of the Ontario Jockey Club. They hold \$204,000 out of a total capital of \$600,000. The original investment of the family was \$3,400, the difference between the original investment and the present holdings being bonus stock. On this stock the dividend paid to the members of the Hendrie family for the half season of 1917 amounted to \$10,200. Other prominent holders of stock in the Ontario Jockey Club are the Gooderham family of Toronto, with holdings of \$17,000; the Seagram family of Waterloo, with holdings of \$42,000; the Davies family of Toronto, with holdings of \$32,000; and the For family of Toronto, with holdings of \$12,000. These five families control more than half of the stock of the Ontario Jockey Club.

At Ottawa in 1910 Sir John Hendrie said on oath that he and his brother, George, were in partnership in the racing business. George M. Hendrie is president of the Windsor Jockey Club. No shares of that club stand in the name of Sir John Hendrie, but more than half of the stock stands in the name of George M. Hendrie, and the club paid dividends for the half season of 1917 of \$100,000, in the shares of the Hendrie family was \$52,000, besides George M. Hendrie's salary as president of the club.

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