

members of the present Government, including Dr. J. D. Reid, now Minister of Customs, Mr. Arthur Meighen, now Solicitor General of Canada, and Mr. Martin Burrell, now Minister of Agriculture, supported the measure. Why then did it fail?

There were three principal reasons.

There was an annual income to the jockey clubs of somewhere in the neighborhood of half a million dollars at stake and they put up a very powerful lobby.

Then every one of the jockey clubs in the Canadian Racing Association had spokesmen on the floor of the House. Sir Edmund Osler, M.P., vice-president of the Ontario Jockey Club, spoke against the bill, alleging that he had never known in all his experience of a case of a young man who had gone wrong from betting on the race-track, and he accused the promoters of the bill of trying to have suppressed by Act of Parliament "that which can only be suppressed by the moral teaching of the ministry of this country and the fathers of the children." He gave the Woodbine track a very high character, alleging in particular that no boy or girl under 18 years of age was permitted to visit the track!

The late Samuel Barker, M.P., a former President of the Hamilton Jockey Club, dwelt on the eminent respectability of that club. In his view the race-track bookmaker belonged to the same class as the life insurance agent.*

Though Mr. A. H. Clarke, K.C., M.P., of Windsor, had told the House during a previous session that the race track at Windsor was a gambling resort pure and simple and an unmitigated curse to that city, Mr. Oliver J. Wilcox, M.P. for North Essex, did not hesitate to defend the Windsor track, and Mr. W. M. German, M.P. for Welland, gave the Fort Erie track a clean bill of health. Mr. German had appeared before the Select Committee of the House of Commons. He told the Committee that he "could get every minister, every clergyman and every priest in and about that section of the country to sign a petition that the Fort Erie race-

*This argument was also made on the floor of the House by Mr. Aylesworth, the Minister of Justice. He said:

"But the very gentlemen who have been referred to in the course of the discussion to-day as advocating this measure are, I venture to think, perhaps unconsciously to themselves, engaging in substantially the same sort of business transaction and considering it an eminently laudable thing to do. Suppose I go to a life insurance company and want to obtain a policy of insurance on my life, what else does the company do but avail itself of its knowledge by experience and by the experience of others, as to the chances that I will die within a year and make its bet that I will not die."