

RACE-TRACK REVENUES WITHHELD FROM PUBLIC

Mr. J. T. White Says Information is Confidential

WINDSOR DRAWS CROWDS

Over 14,000 Persons Attended Seven-day Meet, According to Railway Figures Most of Them Coming From Detroit.

It would seem that the powers that be at Queen's Park prefer to treat the racing business in a delicate way and regard betting profits made by the various concerns as confidential and therefore not available to the public. In the Public Accounts Committee yesterday, when Mr. J. T. White, Solicitor to the Treasury, was being questioned as to the earnings of the various race tracks, witness said the information which he had obtained from the Ontario Jockey Club had been given voluntarily, but on the understanding that it was to be confidential. A communication from the Provincial Treasurer's Department was read to the committee, to the effect that a number of Racing Associations voluntarily produced for the Provincial Treasurer's inspection certain statements as to revenues in the fall of 1915, but did so on the distinct understanding that they would be treated as confidential and returned immediately after they had been examined.

Who is Master?

Mr. Sam Carter (South Wellington) took the position that Parliament was bigger than the Minister and the Department. This had become a public question and the Government must take the responsibility. If the Racing Associations declined to give the information sought, they could be taxed in such a way that they might be glad to do so.

Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) also resolutely maintained that the information should be obtained from these clubs. These people, he said, should be told this business could not be treated in a confidential way.

There was some argument as to the confidential attitude, and Mr. Musgrove, replying to Mr. Carter, declared that a Government was not bigger than its word. Mr. Carter's final retort was, "There are words and words."

Crowds at Windsor.

With reference to the Devonshire Race Track at Windsor, Mr. J. T. White produced returns showing that the passengers handled by the railway company from Detroit to Windsor at the time of the fall meeting numbered over 14,000 for the seven days. The highest number was over 3,000 on one day.

In reply to Mr. J. C. Elliott, Mr. F. W. Johns, law clerk in the Provincial Secretary's Department, stated that the Gore Bay Riding and Driving Association was incorporated in 1899, with a capital of \$1,500. In November, 1915, the capital was changed to \$25,000, and in February, 1916, to \$200,000. The present name was the Northern Riding and Driving Association.

May Charter Be Forfeited?

It was claimed by Mr. Elliott that as returns had not been filed for a number of years, the charter was liable to have been forfeited.

Mr. Johns replied that had not been the policy of the department, but Mr. Dewart stated that the charter of the York Riding and Driving Association had been forfeited on the ground mentioned several years ago. Mr. Johns said that must have been before he came to the department.

Mr. Elliott said they objected to making fish of the one and flesh of the other.

NELSON'S EXAMPLE TO INSPIRE ONTARIO

Bust of Admiral Presented to Legislature

SHIELDS IN THE SCHOOLS

Unique Ceremony in the Legislative Chamber, With Souvenirs for Principals — "Bomb" Scares the Crowd.

"The gallant little lads in navy blue" had their turn yesterday afternoon in the Legislative Assembly, when the Province of Ontario was presented with a bust of Lord Nelson composed of copper from the great Admiral's ship, The Victory. The bust was the gift of the late Lord Strathcona, formerly High Commissioner for Canada in London, through the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, of which the Rev. Alfred Hall is the Toronto Commissioner. It accompanies the gift of Nelson shields to the educational institutions of the Province.

The Legislative Chamber was packed by members and their relatives and friends and other prominent citizens, including his Worship Mayor Church and members of the City Council, Judges of the various courts in the city, and representatives of various societies.

Members Startled.

The bust, which was carried into the Chamber by a party of sailors and cadets, was unveiled by the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Sir John Hendrie. Just as his Honor was removing the Union Jack which covered the bust, a flashlight photograph was taken. One of the Cabinet Ministers was observed to jump several feet when the "bomb" exploded, while others present behaved as if they feared the Germans had arrived.

The bust is to be placed in the library of the Parliament buildings. Rev. Alfred Hall announced that 2,500 shields have been distributed in Canada and 800 in Ontario.

Nelson's Great Example.

The bust was accepted by Sir William Hearst and Mr. Rowell on behalf of the Legislature, the Premier remarking that it would remind them of Britain's supremacy on the seas, and Mr. Rowell paying tribute to Lord Nelson, whose strong sense of duty and courage under the most trying conditions should be a guide to all. The Liberal leader was sure that when the British fleet, under Admiral Sir David Beatty, had an opportunity of meeting the German battle fleet, the victory for Britain would be no less decisive than was that victory won by Nelson. Both the Premier and the Opposition leader spoke in complimentary terms of the late Lord Strathcona.

A "Nelson" salver was presented to the Lieutenant-Governor by Mr. Justice Craig, while Rev. Mr. Hall gave one to Mr. Speaker Jamieson, and medals were distributed to the Premier, the Opposition leader, Dr. Pyne and others who took part in the proceedings, as souvenirs.

Irish Colors Shown.

Another picturesque event, prior to the presentation of the Nelson bust, was the displaying of the colors of the 208th Irish Fusiliers Battalion, commanded by Lieut.-Col. T. Herbert Lennox, member of the Legislature for North York. The Toronto Irish battalion had been warned for overseas, and announcement was made that the colors of the regiment will be deposited in Belfast, Ireland. The color party was headed by a little Irish piper playing "The Wearin' of the Green."