

# RANEY INTRODUCES MEASURE TO STIFLE HANDBOOK TRADE

**Bill Designed to Prevent  
Publication and Circula-  
tion of Betting Informa-  
tion in Ontario, Except  
on Premises of Incorpor-  
ated Racing Associations**

## **SEVERE PENALTIES PRESCRIBED IN ACT**

Hon. W. E. Raney, Attorney-General, introduced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon his promised legislation "respecting the publication of betting information." He made no comment on the measure beyond a simple statement that it was designed to curb the handbook evil. No further questions were asked, but everyone anticipates a lengthy discussion on the occasion of the second reading, if not violent and prolonged opposition.

The outstanding feature of the bill is that it is aimed at the handbook gamblers. One clause expressly stipulates that the publication or keeping on the premises of incorporated racing associations of any publication containing betting information shall not be deemed unlawful. In other words, the racing associations in Ontario are not affected by this new legislation.

### **Bans Publication of Odds.**

The specific clause prohibiting the publication of betting odds reads:

"Every person who, by himself, his clerk, servant or agent, publishes any publication containing betting information as defined by this act, shall be guilty of an offense." Punishment is fixed at not exceeding \$500 fine and in addition six months' imprisonment.

"Betting information" includes tips, selections, odds, prices and pari-mutuel payments relating to any horse-race, steeplechase, pacing, running or trotting race within or without Ontario.

"Publication" under the bill includes board, tape, paper, newspaper, and so on, while the term "publish" means act of writing, printing or making information legible or producing or displaying or distributing or selling such information. In short, it is intended that the only method by which the betting public can get racing information is at the tracks of incorporated racing associations.

If the bill becomes law it will be illegal for a news vendor to handle papers containing betting information. The Ontario papers will be prohibited from publishing such information. Nothing is said regarding the publication of racing entries as now seen in the papers every day, but the news of results must not include the prices the winners paid. News of betting on other events outside of speed contests between horses is not touched upon.

### **Point to Be Explained.**

Presumably a man could get a paper published outside of Ontario containing betting information through the mails, and not be liable, though this point will have to be explained. The bill is primarily and solely aimed at the handbook evil.

As it is a Government measure, it is expected to have solid U.F.O. backing. Most Liberals will likely support it, but the attitude of a majority of Conservatives is as yet unknown. It will be a day or so before the members become acquainted with the proposed legislation, as it was not even read to the House yes-

# RANEY INTRODUCES ANTI-BETTING BILL

**Aim is to Suppress Infor-  
mation Relating to Horse  
Racing.**

## **NO TRACK EXEMPTED**

**Regarded as Ineffective,  
as It Attempts to Enlarge  
Criminal Code.**

Hon. W. E. Raney in the Legislature yesterday introduced his long-awaited anti-betting bill. It commences by declaring that:

"In this Act—'Betting information' shall include tips, selections, choices, odds, winning money prices, prices paid to winners, pari-mutuel payments or any similar intelligence relating to, applicable to, or connected with any horse race, steeplechase, pacing, running or trotting race, whether held within or without Ontario.

"'Publication' shall include board, tape, sheet, paper, pamphlet, newspaper, magazine or periodical.

"'Publish' shall include the act of writing, typewriting, printing and otherwise making information legible, and the act of producing, displaying, distributing, selling or offering for sale and disposing of.

### **A Penalty Imposed.**

"Every person, who by himself, his clerk, servant or agent, publishes any publication containing betting information, as defined in this Act, shall be guilty of an offence and shall incur a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars and in addition thereto may be imprisoned for a period not exceeding six months, and in default of payment of any such penalty shall be liable to imprisonment for a period of three months."

Following this sweeping prohibition there follows an exception which permits betting operations upon licensed track premises, such as the Woodbine, Hamilton, Erie and Windsor circuits. Then is inserted the following clause:

"Nothing in this Act contained shall be deemed to prohibit anything expressly permitted or declared to be lawful, or declared not to be unlawful by the Criminal Code or by any other Statute of Canada."

### **Its Vulnerable Point.**

A prominent legal member of the Legislature, discussing the bill, says in this last clause lies the legislation's vulnerable point, which must render it impotent. To catalogue a certain course of action as criminal is to enlarge the Criminal Code, which is a matter exclusively for the Federal Parliament's attention. No saving clause such as the one above inserted by Hon. Mr. Raney can preserve the integrity of the Criminal Code and permit the Ontario House to meddle with that which is specifically removed from the bounds of its authority.