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THE TELEGRAM

TORONTO, SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1959 * *

TELE WANT ADS

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SECOND SECTION

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Clergy Hits Woodbine Teen Bets

By FRED EDGE
 Telegram Staff Reporter

Church leaders, city officials, and private citizens today criticized a law that lets minors bet at racetracks.

Their criticism was touched off by a Telegram story Friday that established that boys as young as 13 have been betting on the races at Old Woodbine.

An investigation by Magistrate S. Tupper Bigelow, chairman of the Ontario Racing Commission, has been ordered by Attorney General Kelso Roberts.

Under Section 1 of the Minors Protection Act, it is unlawful for persons under 18 to play bagatelle, craps, pool, or billiards.

It is even illegal for pool-room proprietors to sell them cigarettes—unless they have a note from their parents.

But they can bet at racetracks until the longshots come home.

Said a United Church minister:

"Children should not be admitted to racetracks, and certainly not allowed to bet on the races. The Jockey Club should have enough interest in the welfare of our children to keep them out.

"The officials of the Jockey Club are among the most prominent and respected members of our society.

"It shouldn't be necessary for us to get the law after them.

"But if things have gotten to such a bad state that children of 13 are betting at tracks... then the only answer is a change in the Criminal Code."

The Jockey Club—formerly the Ontario Jockey Club—opened racetracks to children August 1, 1958.

WHOLESOME SPORT

At that time, it was stipulated that children would have to be accompanied by a parent, and that they would not be al-

and pari-mutuel clerks is under strict instructions that a ticket must not be sold to anyone under 18 years.

"We are convinced that there is no widespread gambling among minors."

Telegram photos showing minors lounging near the betting wickets, and another placing a bet—a racing form stuck in his hip pocket—were visual proof that the Jockey Club is wrong.

The photos backed up claims by Toronto schoolteachers Grant Gibson and Gordon Lowry that minors are betting the horses—"even playing hookey to spend the day at the track."

THEY CAN BET

A careful check by the Attorney General's department revealed that there is no section of the Criminal Code that makes it illegal for minors to place bets at licensed tracks.

The question is left solely up to the discretion—and the policing—of the Jockey Club.

Con. Jean Newman, who was among those who opposed the opening of racetracks to children last August, repeated her original stand.

"I said then, and I say now, that a racetrack is no place for children.

Charles Black, of Claremore ave., agreed with Mrs. Newman.

"I have seen boys younger than my paper boy placing bets at racetrack wickets right in front of me," he said.

"Children shouldn't even be allowed at tracks. But if the Jockey Club can let them in at will, then the Criminal Code should be changed to make it unlawful for them to place

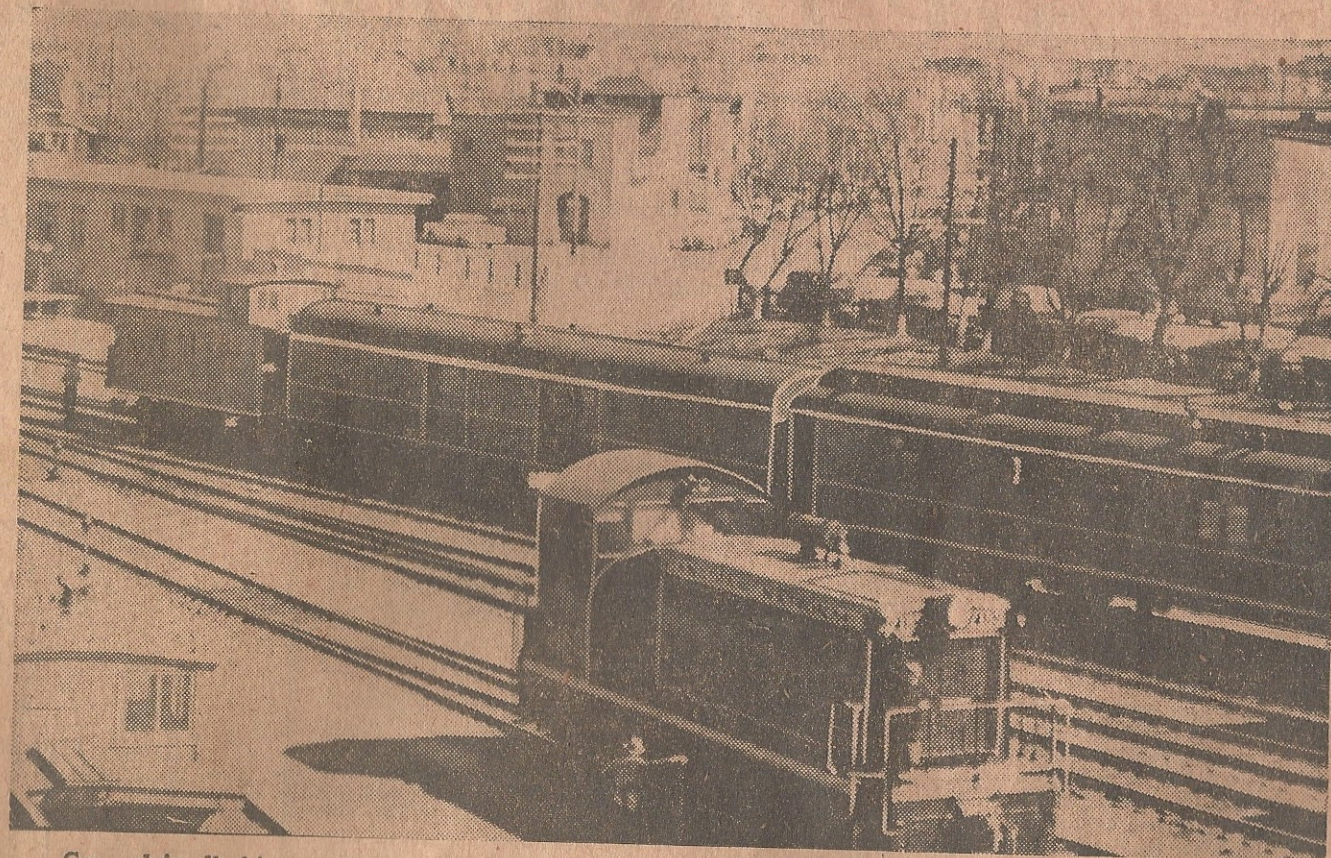
ON THE MAP

At Capreol They Keep . . .



A pretty spring pen-up for any man's baseball team, Bonnie McLeish, 16, strikes a pretty pose in her sporting garb that fits like a lucky glove. Bonnie, born and raised in Capreol, is a former carnival queen.

IN TRAINING



Capreol is all things railroad . . . the acrid smell of smoke, the lonely whistle of the freights, the squeaks of the cars' stops and starts, the rumble of the boxcars. Viewed through the scene of track and railway cars is the Capreol main street, the heart of a train town.

Gateway To A Wilderness

By DON DELAPLANTE

CAPREOL — (Special) — This is the jumping-off place for 100,000 square miles of northern Ontario wilderness and it's also one of the liveliest and most progressive towns in eastern Canada.

Trappers, prospectors, Indians, fur buyers, lumberjacks, fishermen and hunters come and go at its big railway station for it's a divisional point on the Cana-

