

Arthur Humphrey Townsend [6C17]



‘The Mercury’ Hobart, Tasmania dated 27 August 1937.

‘Doesn’t mind a Gamble. Retired Clergyman’s Admission’

Mr. Arthur Humphrey Townsend, retired clergyman, with a rubicund "humorous" face that is reproduced in pencil, and camera studies on the well-bedecked walls of his "bed-sitting room" in the Charterhouse, London, rose from his solitary armchair and vehemently said "Tush!" He was alluding to surprise expressed at Clerkenwell County Court that "a clergyman" should be interested in horse racing. Mr. Townsend had been plaintiff in an unsuccessful claim in which horse racing was mentioned. "I see nothing harmful in horse racing. Far more pernicious gambling is done at dog racing. I'm an Irishman, and I've always liked horses - used to ride 'em years ago when I did Chaplain duty with the 10th Hussars at Dublin. I don't mind a gamble. I've not backed anything today - couldn't afford lo. But I had a share in a sweep ticket, and I've visited Continental casinos."

In Silent Films

Mr. Townsend is 70. He is sprightly and is proud of the fact that he can still dance an Irish jig with the best. He rejoices at being versatile and talks with gusto of having played in silent films.

"That was after I retired from the Church after the war. I had been a curate in various London parishes for more than 30 years, but had to give up owing to ill-health," he said. "I played parsons in a couple of silent films, including 'Glorious Adventure,' with Lady Diana Cooper. They say I've a comic face," he told the "Daily Mail."

Mr. Townsend claimed £10s from Mr. W. F. Ellis Lincoln, a solicitor, of Upper St, Islington, alleging that the money was lent by him to a client of Mr. Lincoln, a Mr. Boucher, who wished to become a racehorse trainer or to make munitions.

Mr. Registrar Friend: How does a clergyman come to be interested either in horse racing or making munitions? - I happen to have a certain amount of influence with people in the West End.

Holding that there was no cause of action and no case to answer, Mr. Registrar Friend gave judgment for Mr. Lincoln.