

8. Subordinate to these principal questions, one other obtruded itself as the subject of major discussion—namely, whether a greatly increased number of totalizator licences should be granted to trotting clubs in New Zealand and whether a more limited number of additional licences should be made available to the New Zealand Racing Conference, chiefly for use at country race meetings in the Auckland Province.

9. The subjects for inquiry referred to us resolved themselves into two broad classes. The first has relation to lotteries and other proposals of a similar character and to gaming in the form of the playing of games of chance ; the second to horse-racing in both its forms and to betting upon horse-racing. Ancillary to the latter question is that as to the form of betting which should be countenanced, if, in fact, betting is to be countenanced at all.

10. Unfortunately, we were given little or no evidence on the subject of lotteries. The nearest approach was testimony given by Messrs. W. Stuart Wilson and Frederick Cassin in favour of an investment-bond scheme. Their scheme is somewhat of the nature of the well-known premium-bond scheme, but it was said to be an improvement upon that scheme and to be novel.

11. On the subject of gaming in the sense of the playing of games of chance, the only evidence was that of the Commissioner of Police.

12. In respect of lotteries and all schemes of a cognate character and of gaming in the limited sense above mentioned, the Commission has therefore been left to form an opinion based almost entirely upon its own consideration of the issues involved. The absence of any demonstrated public interest in these topics justifies the postponement of any consideration of them to a consideration of the questions of racing and betting, which are clearly the predominant subjects of public interest and concern. We turn, therefore, at once to those questions..