

111. Initially, transmission to and from all points will be by telephone and, where possible, by sealed circuit hired for the whole day. The Post and Telegraph Department is of opinion that sufficient toll facilities are available to meet all requirements in respect of meetings held on Saturdays and on national holidays. The system is designed to minimize the use of trunk lines in order to reduce, as far as possible, the work of Post and Telegraph employees on Saturdays and holidays. It is suggested that in the future teleprinting machines and other modern devices may be brought into service. It is not proposed to disburse dividends until the first day after the race meeting to which the betting relates concludes. This, again, is to avoid anything savouring of a betting-shop atmosphere. The delay in payment will not, it is said, impose any hardship on off-course bettors since bookmakers do not now settle and have never settled their accounts until after the conclusion of race meetings. When the telephone is used, an investor is to be given a code name or number of his own choosing, and he may then use the telephone to lay bets. On receipt of the message, the agency operator is to prepare a numbered betting-slip and to then repeat back the particulars to the investor, who must accept complete responsibility for its correctness.

112. The scheme of the Conferences postulates that persons desirous of betting by telephone must first make a deposit to cover the amount of the betting. A minimum deposit of £2 is suggested. Withdrawal of the deposit at any time is to be permitted.

113. Initially, the scheme necessitates the acceptance of two conditions. Firstly, all bets must be placed at agencies one and a half hours before the advertised starting-time of the race to which the bet relates ; and, secondly, bets will not be received until acceptances have been made known. It is not suggested in the scheme that bettors can bet against their winnings. In the result, therefore, a man who has exhausted his deposit in a winning bet will not be able to bet further until he has made a new deposit. This is not a desirable feature and there is no necessity for it. Tote Investors, Ltd., in England have no difficulty in allowing their clients to bet against winnings, and the same system could—to give satisfaction, we think it must—be adopted in New Zealand.

114. Several objections to the system were raised by counsel for the Dominion Sportsmen's Association. One related to the convenience and advantage to the bettor of the system of credit betting. In the light of the view we have expressed as to that type of betting, no further reference to this objection is necessary. Another objection related to deposit bettors who win but, in doing so, exhaust their deposit. That objection, too, we have now dealt with. The third related to betting by miners, waterfront workers, freezing-workers, workers in wool-stores,