

THE TROTTING CONFERENCE

148. The Trotting Conference is somewhat differently constituted. Each totalizator club engaged in the sport of trotting annually elects a representative to the New Zealand Trotting Conference. There is one exception to this. The Auckland Trotting Club has two representatives and two votes. The Trotting Conference, like the New Zealand Racing Conference, is the legislative assembly of the sport it represents, and, like the New Zealand Racing Conference, is the body to which all appeals are ultimately made. It will be seen that even the smallest trotting club authorized to use a totalizator has equal voting strength with the biggest and strongest clubs.

149. Here, again, no criticism of any kind was at any time directed to the constitution of the New Zealand Trotting Conference. It can only be concluded that the constitutions of the two bodies, although they differ, have been found in practice to be satisfactory in all respects; so that even if the Commission felt disposed to recommend any change it would, in so doing, have no warrant for its action in the evidence and would be interfering with an administrative basis which experience has shown to be satisfactory.

COMMISSION'S VIEWS ON CONFERENCE CONTROL

150. Both Conferences have evolved a set of rules which can only be described as elaborate and comprehensive. These rules probably, as to fundamentals at least, owe their origin to the English rules of racing. For the rest, they have been designed to meet needs demonstrated by experience to be necessary. No criticism of any serious moment was directed to either set of rules. In fact, the only criticism voiced was with respect to the rule of the New Zealand Racing Conference governing the majority necessary to carry a special resolution of the Conference. Attention was also directed to the system of appeals which is in force under the rules of the New Zealand Racing Conference. To this latter subject we will have occasion to advert later.

151. The Commission feels that it would not be justified in making any definitive recommendation concerning the majority necessary to carry what is defined as "a special resolution" under the rules of the New Zealand Racing Conference, but it expresses the view that a majority of 60 to 40 would sufficiently insure that stability which is the objective sought. Having regard to the diverse character of the questions which may form the subject of a special resolution, the present requirement that such a resolution is only to be deemed carried if it earns the support of not less than three-fourths of the number of valid votes recorded seems a little restrictive.