

333. Arising out of the circumstances attending the passing of this Act, both the Racing and the Trotting Conferences extended their control over such meetings and were enabled to do so by an arrangement between them and the Minister of Internal Affairs by which the latter adopted the practice of not granting any licence under the Act except to a club registered with the appropriate Conference. This registration involved the approval of the programme by a district committee in the case of the Racing Conference, or by the Trotting Association in the case of the Trotting Conference. The effect has been the assumption and intensification of control by the respective Conferences which have drawn under their jurisdiction clubs of various classes which have registered, even though their operations are not strictly those of a racing or trotting club. For instance, the holding of a galloping or trotting event as part of a mixed programme at an agricultural and pastoral show or at a sports meeting has required registration by the authority holding the show or meeting. Both Conferences have dealt with the whole matter in a generous and broad-minded spirit, and the necessity for registration and for the approval of programmes has never been a source of embarrassment to any organization whose competitions might bring its operations within the scope of the Act.

334. Apart, however, from such organizations as have been brought within the scope of the Act by the breadth of the definition adopted by the Courts, there are a number of clubs whose gatherings are true race meetings in every sense of the word. Their activities, through the absence of revenue from betting facilities, are necessarily on a minor scale. During the 1930's there was a fairly widespread growth in public interest in country districts in this type of non-totalizator race meeting. This was due in no small measure to the Remounts Encouragement Act, 1914, being brought into active operation after having been allowed to remain dormant for many years after its passing. Under this Act the Departments of Agriculture and of Internal Affairs and the Racing and Trotting Conferences evolved a scheme for the payment of subsidies to owners of thoroughbred stallions, thus enabling dwellers in country districts to obtain the services of desirable sires at a small fee. Full advantage was taken of this scheme by farmers and horse-lovers in country districts, and within five years a type of horse suitable for hunting and other recreational and competitive purposes became common in many districts. The presence of horses suitable for competition in considerable numbers naturally engendered a desire for competitive racing, and non-totalizator racing clubs increased in number and proportions considerably, particularly in such areas as North Auckland and the Waikato.

335. So great was the development in both those territories that major associations of these clubs have come into existence. Of clubs which are exclusively racing clubs, there are ten at which registered horses are