

203. Basically, the question must be resolved in the light of the general rule that, within the permitted limits of contests involving the use of horses, the public is entitled to that form of racing which a preponderant majority desires. If, therefore, certain clubs feel confident that the great majority of their patrons prefer events involving galloping alone, there seems no reason why they should not eliminate trotting events from their programmes. On the other hand, many of the clubs concerned may be of opinion that the majority of their patrons desire mixed programmes. If so, there is no reason why they should not provide programmes of that type.

204. Most of the clubs affected by the question appear to come in this latter category, for a careful analysis of the totalizator turnover for several years past of all the clubs involved does not suggest that galloping is being anywhere wholly or almost exclusively supported by trotting. The danger of such a contingency arising lies in the possible existence of a coterie of galloping enthusiasts which has control of a particular club continuing to maintain galloping events contrary to a widespread public desire, and with the aid of a totalizator turnover and attendances due to the provision of a few trotting events.

205. We were invited to believe that some such position pertained in several places. We cannot, however, find that it does. When and wherever such a position accrues, we feel some assurance that lack of patronage and the weight of public opinion will force a change from one form of racing to the other. The Racing Advisory Board, the establishment of which we recommend, could scarcely fail to be conscious of the need of change in such circumstances and can be expected to make an appropriate recommendation to the Minister.

206. There is already statutory authority in section 3 of the Gaming Amendment Act, 1924, for such a change, without any loss of totalizator rights being involved. The section should, however, make it clear that the licence is to take effect as an addition to the total of licences issuable in respect of the form of sport adopted and as a reduction from the total of licences issuable in respect of the form of sport abandoned. Otherwise, the total number of licences issuable would be increased.

SECTION 8.—AUCKLAND TROTTING CLUB'S CLAIM TO HOLIDAY DATES ENJOYED BY THE AUCKLAND RACING CLUB

207. The complaints of the Auckland Trotting Club are now of some years standing, and similar complaints may be expected to arise in other centres in the future if the popularity of trotting increases in the same ratio as in the past. It is desirable, therefore, that some principle should be ascertained and defined by which the rights of the two clubs mentioned