

Club to use the course, training-track, buildings, and accessories for the training and racing requirements of our club. Such permission has been granted for our 1915 meeting, and, further, until such time as our club can acquire a course of its own. The course is fenced by stout rails both inside and outside all round. The nearest clubs using the totalizator are 300 miles distant—Auckland and Otahuhu respectively. The nearest club not using the totalizator is at Palmerston North, 250 miles distant. No doubt you are aware that Gisborne is peculiarly isolated and the centre of a very large pastoral district. Our railway facilities are very meagre, and our roads unsuitable for motor traffic, consequently the settlers and travelling public are dependent entirely upon horses as their means of travelling about the district. The isolation of Gisborne also raises an additional reason why the breeding of horses should virtually be subsidized by the use of the totalizator, as our markets are limited and heavy expenses are incurred in taking horses to outside meetings. The district is very suitable for breeding horses, and already the inception of our club has induced the importation of good trotting-sires and breeding-mares, and the stamp of harness-horse in the district is bound to show a great improvement in future years. This district has provided 150 horses for the Expeditionary Forces, and most of them gift horses. We respectfully submit that our claim for one day's totalizator permit is as strong as that of any trotting club in New Zealand.

By the Deputation.—We wish to point out that it is the utility harness-horse that we intend to foster by the sport of trotting. There is a large section of the community who cannot afford to keep racehorses, but they can afford to keep a utility horse and at the same time make use of him from a sporting point of view. We have many sheep-farmers and men who breed horses among our two hundred members. We have been established three years, and have given over £200 in stakes, and we are in a very fair way to become a successful club. Not only is Gisborne isolated, but it is a difficult place to get in and out of with horses. Probably there is no better district in New Zealand than Gisborne for breeding horses of all kinds. The one class of horse in this district that is not catered for to any extent is the trotter. The only thing that keeps us from having one of the best meetings in the Dominion is the absence of the totalizator. Practically the whole of the people a hundred and twenty miles up the coast concentrate in Gisborne for all their sports and racing. This is a huge district, with a growing population.

HAWKE'S BAY TROTTING CLUB.

The headquarters of the club are at Hastings. The club was formed on the 20th May, 1914, and is registered with the New Zealand Trotting Association. No meeting has been held yet. A list of the present members of the club has been forwarded. We propose to race on the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's course. The nearest trotting clubs using the totalizator are Greytown, 160 miles distant, and Wanganui, 160 miles distant. The nearest trotting clubs not using the totalizator are Horowhenua, at Levin, 140 miles distant; Manawatu, at Palmerston, 100 miles distant; and Gisborne, 120 miles distant by sea. We would point out that this club is the only trotting club in the Hawke's Bay Province, extending from Wairoa in the north to Woodville in the south, the nearest trotting meetings being held as follows: Greytown, 160 miles distant, has a permit for one-day meeting; Wanganui, 160 miles distant, has a permit for a two-days meeting; Horowhenua, 140 miles distant (no permit), one-day meeting; Manawatu, 100 miles distant (no permit), one-day meeting; Gisborne, 120 miles distant (no permit), one-day meeting. Hawke's Bay is a recognized farming and breeding district, and it is in the interests of the country that encouragement should be given to breeders of trotting-horses. There are at present about fifty breeders of trotting-horses in the district, all of whom support trotting, but owing to the fact that this district is completely isolated from a trotting point of view these persons are put to considerable expense to match their horses against those from other parts of New Zealand. If a meeting were held in the district numbers of persons would take an active part in the sport which, owing to the great expense, they are unable to do at present. The club would cater equally for the large and small owners, and the sport would be open to all. The fact must be considered that, while horse-racing in the usual acceptance of the term is a wealthy man's pastime, trotting is far less expensive to the individual. A horse which in ordinary times is in use in its owner's business can be entered and stands a reasonable chance of winning against horses which are kept solely for racing purposes. At present there are thirty-five horses in actual training for trotting in this district, and we are assured of a large number of others if we run a meeting here. Those in actual training in this district include some of the best trotting-horses in New Zealand to-day. The club has the use of a racecourse and appointments second to none in New Zealand, the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club having expended the sum of £37,000 on improvements during the past year, the total value of the grounds and improvements being upwards of £50,000.

By the Deputation.—Formerly we had a trotting club in Hawke's Bay, but it was not the success it should have been owing to circumstances it is not necessary to mention here. Now we have a large population in the district, and they take a keen interest in trotting. We have two hundred members in this new club, and if a permit is granted that number will be increased to between three and four hundred. We have no hesitation in saying that those who now represent the new club are our leading citizens of Hawke's Bay, socially and financially, and men with all the instincts of true sport in them. The interest that is taken in trotting here is shown by the fact that we have private tracks and private breeding establishments, for which the very best horses have been imported. We have entered horses in Canterbury and Auckland, and as far away as Australia. We hold that the utility horse to-day and the military horse to-day is the trotting-horse. There are thirty-six horses in actual training in Hawke's Bay to-day, not going beyond Dannevirke, and there are at least forty-five people who have horses and are going to train them if we get a permit.