

WAIMATE PLAINS TROTTING CLUB.

The headquarters of the club are at Hawera, and the club was formed on the 14th May, 1906. It is registered. The club has held seven consecutive meetings, the last meeting being held on the Egmont Racing Club's course at Hawera on the 10th July, 1912. A list of the present members of the club and a copy of the club's latest balance-sheet have been forwarded. Our intention at the present time is to race on the course of the Egmont Racing Club. The nearest trotting club using the totalizator is Wanganui, a distance of sixty miles. There is no other trotting club in the Taranaki Province. We would point out that Taranaki is a strong trotting province, and the farmers are largely interested in breeding trotting-horses. There is no totalizator permit in the Taranaki Province for trotting. There is no totalizator permit for trotting between Auckland and Wanganui. From 1906 to 1912 the club held seven consecutive annual meetings without the totalizator. The club has a membership of nearly two hundred, which could be doubled if the sport were encouraged. The trotting meetings have been largely attended by farmers and their families, and the club has conducted its meetings in a manner favourably commented on by the Trotting Association.

By the Deputation.—The stakes at our meetings have been wholly subscribed by voluntary contributions. There are keen trotting enthusiasts here, and we would have no trouble at all in getting any number of horses if we got a permit. There are plenty of horses in the district, but we have to rely on Wanganui and Auckland for our racing at the present time, and that is a long distance to send our horses. We have always held most enthusiastic meetings. We would have no trouble in getting a membership of three to four hundred if we got a permit. Our last two meetings were run without a permit or bookmakers. We thought that as there was a chance of getting a permit in the future we would carry on by subscription. We canvassed all through the country for members. Some one hundred and fifty of our two hundred members have paid £1 each with the idea of keeping the club alive and in the hope of getting a permit. Our meetings have been largely attended by farmers. They are picnic outings. We have never had a totalizator permit, but we had the bookmakers at five of our meetings. This is a very strong breeding district for horses, and if you go through the Wanganui book you will find that more than 50 per cent. of the horses competing there are Taranaki horses. The trotting as conducted before was not conducted by representative men, but if we get a permit we will get a great deal of support from the members of the Egmont Racing Club. We are getting a good class of men to support trotting, and we can guarantee first-class meetings if we get a permit.

MANAWATU TROTTING CLUB.

The headquarters of the club are at Palmerston North. The club was formed in October, 1910, but no minutes were kept till June, 1911. The club is registered with the New Zealand Trotting Association. The last meeting was held in March, 1914. A list of the present members of the club and a copy of the last balance-sheet have been forwarded. The racecourse the club proposes to use is the Manawatu Racing Club's Awapuni Racecourse. The circumference of the course is 8 furlongs. The tenure is only for the meeting. The Manawatu Racing Club has allowed us the use of the course on a payment to be arranged. The accommodation is most adequate in every way, the course and appointments being amongst the most up to date in the Dominion. The course is securely fenced on both sides. The nearest clubs using the totalizator are the Wanganui Trotting Club, Wanganui; Hutt Valley Trotting Club, Petone; South Wairarapa Trotting Club, Greytown; Manawatu Racing Club, Palmerston North; and Feilding Jockey Club, Feilding. The nearest club not using the totalizator is the Horowhenua Trotting Club, Levin. You will note the grounds we base our claim on are—population served; facilities for enabling the greatest number to attend at the least expense, in the shortest time, and with the greatest ease; the conveniences and appointments of the course; and the benefit to horse-breeding in the district. In regard to population, the figures are as follows:—

	Population.	Clubs.	Permits.	Days.
North Island	590,165	5	8	15
South Island	462,198	12	21	36

showing the preponderance of trotting in the South Island, allowing one day to every 12,838 of population as against one day to every 39,344 in the North Island—just three times as much in the South Island. The permits in the South Island are fairly evenly distributed among the provinces, as—Canterbury, with 180,100 population, has nineteen days, Otago and Southland, with 198,625 population, have eight days, Marlborough, Nelson, and Westland, with 83,473 population, have nine days. In the North Island the fifteen days are almost wholly in the Auckland Province, which, with 276,647 population, has eleven days, while Wellington, Hawke's Bay, and Taranaki, with a total population of 313,518, have only four days, divided up amongst three clubs—Wanganui two days, Hutt Valley one day, and South Wairarapa one day. This allows one day for every 25,149 people in the Auckland Province, while Wellington, Hawke's Bay, and Taranaki (with four days)—which are the most populous and fertile provinces in the Dominion, and with the best railway service—have the proportion of only one day to every 78,379 of population. This is emphasized when it is considered that for the whole of the South Island there is one day to every 12,838 persons, while the Nelson; Marlborough, and Westland Provinces, with nine days, have equal to one day to every 9,274, and Canterbury, with nineteen days, has one day to every 9,478 persons. This shows that the Wellington, Hawke's Bay, and Taranaki Provinces, although having nearly one-third of the total population and in the most central portion of the Dominion, have only equal to one-thirteenth of the trotting, and compared with the Nelson, Westland, and Marlborough or Canterbury Provinces, have only one-eighth as much as either; while Nelson, Marlborough, and Westland, although having only a quarter of