

Parliament Discusses Racing Ban

Rights of Public being Ignored

DISCUSSION occurred in Parliament last week on the action of the Racing and Trotting Conferences in banning the broadcast of race news. This action was strongly condemned by some speakers, and the reason advanced that broadcasting promoted gambling was characterised as sheer hypocrisy. It was made plain that any change in the situation would arise only from the weight of public opinion making itself felt.

MR. H. E. HOLLAND, Leader of the Opposition, asked whether the Post and Telegraph Department had taken any action regarding the attitude adopted by the Racing Conference concerning the broadcasting of race meeting results. The Racing Conference, he said, seemed to have taken upon itself the power which belonged to Parliament on one hand, and the Court on the other. The Radio Broadcasting Company had announced that it was going to continue broadcasting irrespective of any action on the part of the Racing Conference. The company was receiving assistance from the Post Office, and the questions in dispute really came within the scope of the Department to a certain extent. It would be interesting to know what attitude the Department proposed to adopt in the matter. "When the Tunney-Heeney fight was on," added Mr. Holland, "members of the House were able to follow the bout as it proceeded, and I can't see the difference between listening-in to a pugilistic encounter and listening-in to a horse race. The Racing Conference contend that the broadcasting of race meetings will lead to an increase in gambling, but it is hard to imagine how that could possibly happen under existing conditions; and, in any case, if a veto is to be operated, surely it ought to be operated by Parliament, and not by the Racing Conference."

"Sheer Hypocrisy."

"I am in accord with those who resent the attitude of the Racing Conference on this question," said Mr. R. W. Smith (Waimarino). "The claim that the broadcasting of the events will increase gambling is sheer hypocrisy. . . . Already too many restrictions are being placed on the liberty of the subject. The Racing Conference proposal is a breach of faith with the general public. I feel that in the interests of those who have been induced to purchase wireless sets, par-

ticularly those in the country districts, the action of the Racing Conference should be taken in hand by the Government, and that the proposed restrictions should not be allowed to be enforced."

Prime Minister's Views.

"The question as to whether this or that should be broadcast is a domestic matter between the company and the Racing Conference," said the Prime Minister. "It is for themselves to arrange what should be broadcast, and, so long as the information sent out does not contravene public policy, there is no reason why it should not be broadcast. The Racing Conference is responsible for the government of racing in New Zealand, and rightly so. We are not discussing racing to-day, but I say that racing is far safer and better controlled under the present system than if it were governed by Parliament. (Hear, hear.) On the general question of public policy, Parliament, of course, must come in." (Hear, hear.)

The Prime Minister said that the racing clubs and also the broadcasting company had their interests to serve, and there was no doubt there were two sides to the present dispute. He was not in possession of all the points at issue, but it was possible that the Racing Conference had taken the stand that the privilege of broadcasting the racing was worth something to the broadcasting company. It helped to fill their programmes at little expense, and was it not worth something? was the question the conference would probably ask.

Mr. J. Horn (Wakatipu): That is the point.

The Prime Minister: If it is worth something to the broadcasting company, the Racing Conference would consider the question of supply and demand. I may be completely off the mark, and I only say that in a general way.

Mr. V. H. Potter (Roskill): And the poor, old public suffer between the two.

The Prime Minister emphasised that the Government could only intervene if there was a general demand for the broadcasting of such information. He did not think that that general demand existed.

INTERRUPTION BY GALE

THE gale of Thursday, August 16, caused an interruption in 2YA's transmission. The power-line was carried away and the station was off the air until after 4 o'clock.

HOSPITAL RADIO

WELLINGTON'S INSTALLATION

AT a recent meeting of the Hospital Radio Fund Committee, set up by the Amateur Radio Society of Wellington, most satisfactory reports were received concerning the success of the broadcast receiving installation at the Wellington Hospital. Mr. W. Stuart Wilson (chairman) presided, and there were present Messrs. W. J. Roche, T. Megann, L. V. Kay (honorary treasurer), and I. M. Levy (honorary secretary).

Mr. Preston B. Billing, technical lecturer to the Wellington Radio Society, who was engaged by the Hospital Radio Fund Committee to test and inspect the hospital broadcast receiving installation, forwarded a report stating that he had tested and examined the installation, and that he had no hesitation in passing it. He gave the contractors credit for the success of their work.

Mr. C. W. Bland, hospital electrician, wrote stating that the installation had been operating perfectly since the contractors had completed their work. Mr. Bland added: "I take this opportunity to thank the staff of the National Electrical and Engineering Company for the courtesy and consideration shown to the patients and hospital staff while employed on this installation."

The honorary secretary of the fund (Mr. Levy) received the following letter from the secretary of the Wellington Hospital Board: "I have to convey to you, to Mr. Stuart Wilson (chairman), and the other members of your committee, the thanks of my board for the time and trouble you have taken in connection with our wireless installation. Should an appeal be made by my board for the necessary funds required to complete the installation in both the old and new wards, to the patients in our wards."

The chairman of the fund committee, Mr. Stuart Wilson, commented upon the fact that the efficiency of the hospital broadcast receiving installation had been confirmed by all parties concerned. The reports, he said, would be particularly gratifying to the hundreds of people who had so kindly contributed towards the fund.

A letter was received from the National Electrical and Engineering Co., Ltd., contractors for the radio installation at the hospital, formally reporting the completion of the work.

The chairman paid a tribute to the contractors' technical staff, headed by Mr. Wyles.

A motion was passed expressing appreciation of the work accomplished by the National Electrical and Engineering Co., Mr. D. G. Wyles and his staff. A resolution was also adopted thanking Messrs. Thomas Ballinger and Co., Ltd., for the wiring of the new building in preparation for the future extension of the broadcast listening installation to the new wards, and to Mr. P. B. Billing, for his technical advice to the committee.

AT present all patients who are in the eye ward, wards 7 and annexe, 6, 4, and 5, are able to enjoy broadcast listening by headphones; the children's hospital, the nurses' home, and the medical superintendent's home are equipped with loudspeakers. The

Sporting

Saturday, August 25.—Auckland v. N.S.W. (Rugby), 1YA; Canterbury v. Otago (Rugby), 4YA; third League Test, 3YA; Club Rugby, 2YA.

Saturday, September 1. Auckland v. North Auckland, 1YA; Wellington v. Taranaki, 2YA; Club Rugby, 3YA; Payne Trophy, 4YA.

POLITICS ON THE AIR

PARLIAMENT spent some little time last week discussing a proposal that each of the political parties in the coming election should have the opportunity of stating its platform to the electors over the air. Under the rules now obtaining the broadcasting of matter of a political character is not allowed. The same practice obtained for a long time in Britain, but something less than a year ago it was announced that discretionary power was to be given to the Broadcasting Corporation to broadcast controversial matter. Since then various political addresses have been given over the air. It is now announced in the "Radio Times" that these political broadcasts are to be abandoned, without reasons given. This experience probably has its lesson for New Zealand.

HEENEY-TUNNEY FIGHT

FAILURE IN AUSTRALIA.

A WRITER in the Melbourne "Listener In" writes:

"The hopes of picking up the description of the Tunney-Heeney fight that was broadcast from the ringside by the General Electric Company on the short-wave band and rebroadcasting it were doomed to failure. Short-wave enthusiasts, professional and amateur, were on the qui vive, but I have not heard of any good consecutive reception, and certainly none that was worth rebroadcasting."

The foregoing illustrates the definite success achieved by 2YA and other New Zealand stations.

Our Sunday's Programme.

I feel it is my place to answer Mr. Trewin Cambridge's letter to his complaint to the concert put on the air from His Majesty's Theatre. This hour of entertainment is not out of the ordinary for anybody to listen and enjoy, especially the fine programme put on by the Port Nicholson Band. Surely an hour of band music will not hurt any listener's feelings. The Broadcasting Company can't please everybody, so carry on. Cheerio.—D.X., Okato.

nurses' sick room is fitted with nine pair of headphones. To equip the remainder of the hospital another £700 is required.

Mr. Stuart Wilson is now appealing to 700 citizens to send £1 each to the secretary of the Hospital Board to raise the required £700. The following subscriptions have already been received: W. S. Wilson, I. M. Levy, C. M. Luke, W. E. Labone, W. Horribin, and W.F.P., £1 each; H. E. Taine £2.

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