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HOW PRETENDING TO BE VIRTUOUS COSTS THIS COUNTRY £1,000,000 A YEAR

When Depressed, Take A Look At New Zealand's Remarkable Gambling Customs And Get A Laugh

- Every year, a sum estimated at £1,000,000 leaves New Zealand for investment in overseas lotteries.
- It goes to Tattersalls in Tasmania, the State lotteries of New South Wales, the Golden Casket in Queensland, and the Irish Sweep on the Derby and Grand National in Britain.
- There is no actuarial basis for the figures, as the investments are surreptitious, but this is the calculation of experts.
- And one million pounds each year is a large sum of money. Spread it over 20 years and you will have a tidy sum in the State Treasury.

LEGALLY, there are no bookmakers in New Zealand, but if one told a New Zealand fifth-standard schoolboy this he would probably say in Americanese: "Oh, yeah!"

And experts also calculate that, though £6,000,000 to £7,000,000 is legally invested on horse-racing through the totalisators, just three times that amount is invested illegally through bookmakers.

If ever a country was in a muddle over its gambling laws, if ever a country was a source for gales of laughter for its prim eye-shutting towards the unpleasant facts, it is New Zealand.

And the State—which is the people in the final upshot—when it learns that one of its citizens has been lucky and has won, say, £20,000 in an overseas lottery, behaves like an old-fashioned maiden confronted with the arrival of another life on the earth.

One would gather, when the £20,000 prize arrives, that the State did not know where it came from. One would gather, from the State's modest attitude, that the stork had brought it.

Yet each year the one million pounds goes out of the coun-

try; and each year hospitals, Karitane homes, maternity nursing institutions, orphans' homes, children's health camps and dozens of other institutions see it go with wistful eyes.

SOME DAY NEW ZEALAND WILL REALISE THAT £1,000,000 IS A GOOD DEAL OF MONEY TO PAY JUST FOR THE SMUG PLEASURE OF SHUTTING ITS EYES.

It Can't Be Stopped

FEW people would say there is much good in gambling. It is a vice, just as smoking and drinking are vices. It cannot be defended, but at the same time it cannot be stopped.

All that happens when it is made illegal is that gambling goes underground. Its roots flourish in New Zealand, its branches reach across the Tasman, its fruit is plucked in Australia.

The "Record" believes that it is no use New Zealand trying any longer to shut its eyes towards the facts.

Either gambling should be rooted out completely, or it should be properly supervised and controlled and the people should get the profits.

The "Record" believes that since the first of these courses has failed, the State should take the second.

THE principle of the State lottery is rapidly becoming more and more widely accepted.

New South Wales does it. Every few days a new one is drawn. The State, in many countries, supports or connives at it.

"Tatts," the Irish Sweep, the Calcutta Sweep on the result of the Derby, the famous Christmas gordo at Madrid, all have some measure of support. From all of them the State derives some revenue.

Points against: There are plenty. The morality of gambling is questionable, has always been questioned. The economic wisdom of lotteries has been questioned.

Points for: There are plenty of those, too. Often in the past, States have resorted to making their loans in the form of lotteries.

The lender (or the applicant for the loan) accepts some low rate of interest in return for the chance of winning a financial prize by a system of drawing numbers.

It is a system which speeds up the raising of an internal loan, as a gift coupon scheme speeds up the sale of packets of cigarettes. States which resort to this system find it profitable enough.

As Old As Time

LOTTERIES are as old as the nightwatchman's abbreviated weather report. They were not unknown to the ancients.

In more modern times they have a fascinating history. In the Italian Republic of the sixteenth century, the lottery principle was applied to encourage the sale of merchandise.

In France it became very popular, and soon assumed an important place in Government finance.

In England there were authorised lotteries as early as

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Hot Shots

"FURTHER Base Facilities: Transasman Service," says our evening paper. Surely no one could question the morals of the Awatea's passengers!

YOU can never tell about a woman—you shouldn't, anyhow!

AN Italian chef has taken to song writing as a hobby. They say one of his numbers is entitled "Men of Garlic."

BURNT OFFERING.

A SCIENTIST has discovered a method of extracting food from coal. A newly-married friend tells us that his wife can reverse the process with the greatest of ease.

HAPPINESS is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself.

ON the other hand, all things are more apt to come to those who don't wait.

YOU mustn't believe all the stories you hear about Hollywood actors. Most of them are just old wives' tales.



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"IF you were a fugitive from justice, and were being chased by a police car doing 60 miles an hour along a lonely country road, what would you do?" asks a reader. Seventy!

SUBURBAN STATISTICS.

"IT was either last week or the week before... at any rate, it was just three maids ago..."

POVERTY is no disgrace, says a magistrate. And that's about all you can say in favour of it.

SAFE GUESS.

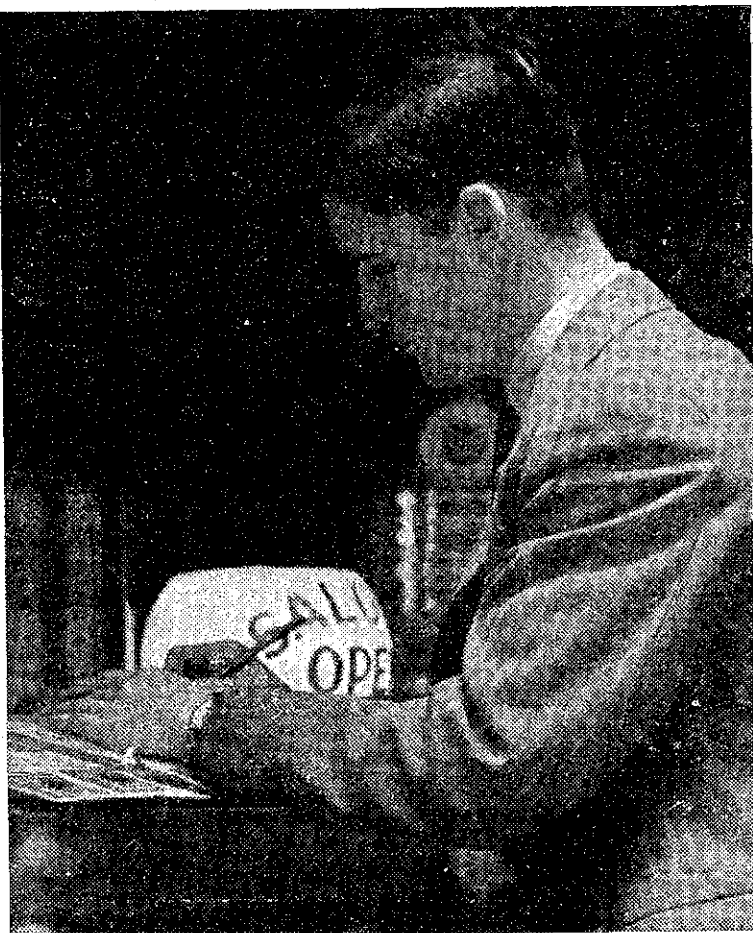
"WHEN a man says he can manage his wife, what exactly does he mean?" asks a reader. He probably means he can make her do anything she wants to.

CYNICS' CORNER.

ANY girl, says a woman journalist, can get the man she wants. But it takes a clever girl to get the man another girl wants.

"LOTS of girls marry their boss," says a writer. Most men do, too.

CO-EDUCATION was once a race for supremacy between the sexes. Now it's just neck and neck.



EVERYBODY'S DOING IT!—But though some do their gambling openly like this in art unions under State patronage, many do it surreptitiously—and that costs New Zealand money.