

Clean Sport.

Sir John Findlay had something interesting to say last week at Remuera upon the racing question. The matter came up in the form of a query from an elector present, who wanted to know what the Minister thought of the action of the Auckland Racing Club in "refusing to allow respectable men on the course at Ellerslie, because they had at one time been bookmakers or bookmakers' clerks?"

Sir John said he was not sorry the question had been asked. When the Gaming Act was placed on the Statute Book it became his duty, as a Minister, to administer the law. He tried to carry out that administration as fairly as possible. Previous to the Act of 1910 the existing legislation permitted the licensing of bookmakers, and he had taken the stand that it was the duty of the racing clubs to carry out the spirit of the law since they had the power to issue licenses to bookmakers upon payment of certain fees. When he spoke of the spirit of the law he referred particularly to that portion of it which stipulated that such licenses should only be issued to "fit and proper persons." The racing clubs had deliberately tried to bring that legislation into discredit by admitting anyone to the course, without due regard to the character of the person applying for a bookmaker's license. It was clearly a fight between those who wanted the tote and those who wanted the bookmaker. When last year's amending legislation was before Parliament he was told that he was the champion and the protector of the bookmaker in New Zealand. He said then that he thought they should end the whole fight between the bookmaker and the tote. Now that the legislation was on the Statute Book he was prepared to stand by it. If an ex-bookmaker sought to exercise the rights of a decent citizen, and attend a race meeting, he thought that that man had a perfect right to do so. (Applause.) He was not against the abolition of the tote, and never had been. But he was opposed to the evils which were to be found associated with racing. There was no stronger advocate of clean sport than himself, and at the same time no stronger opponent of the evils which had grown up in the spheres of sport. (Applause.)

Second Pacific Cable.

The proposal of the Pacific Cable Board to provide a second cable between Australia and New Zealand was discussed last week at a special meeting of the Dunedin Chamber of Commerce. It was resolved to urge upon the Government the desirability of laying such a cable from Melbourne to the Bluff for the following reasons: That it would give the South equally ready access to the main Pacific cable as is enjoyed by the North; that it would minimize the risk of the South being cut off from the world when communication with the North Island is interrupted, and that the adoption of the new route would give greatly increased insurance against total interruption of communication with the main Pacific cable, and would therefore be a sound measure of public policy.

Tasman Sea Cable.

The Prime Minister's motion, "That the House approve the construction and laying a cable by the Pacific Cable Board between Doubtless Bay, or any more convenient point, and Australia, either direct or partly by means of subterranean cable across the North Island," came up for discussion in the House to-night.

Sir Joseph Ward said that, by making Auckland the headquarters of the cable station, and doing away with the Doubtless Bay station, and also in making Sydney the headquarters on the other side of the Tasman Sea instead of La Perouse, two transmissions would be saved between Wellington and Australia, the number of transmissions being two instead of four. There had, he was sure, been a considerable loss of traffic in the last year or two as a result of delays through too many transmissions. By taking the cable direct to Auckland as proposed, the time would be materially reduced. The saving per year to New Zealand by the new system would be about £8000; in short, economy and efficiency both demanded it.

QUESTION OF REDUCED RATES.

Mr. Massey asked if there was any likelihood of the cable rate being reduced in the near future.

The Prime Minister replied that at the Imperial Conference he had moved that it was desirable to take all possible means to secure reductions in cable rates throughout the Empire. He had also urged that the Pacific Cable Board should complete the great Empire cable link, by having a cable of their own across the Atlantic between England and Canada. If that were put into effect he would not be surprised if before very long we should have our cable rates reduced below a shilling a word, probably to sixpence a word, or even less than that.

He wanted to take the opportunity, went on Sir Joseph, of expressing the hope that before long this country would have the advantage of an independent Press cable service from the Old Country instead of being supplied with cable news that served both Australia and New Zealand. He had no hesitation in saying that the Government here should help in a material way to ensure a thoroughly independent service of news sent out for the newspaper readers of this country. As for the publication of New Zealand news in England we were hardly known. One would remain in England for weeks, sometimes months, and scarcely know that Australia or New Zealand existed. Canada had brought herself well before the people of England as the result of a good cable service, and the lesson should be a valuable one for us.

COST OF CABLE.

In reply to Mr. Allen the Prime Minister said he understood the cost of the cable between the Dominion and Australia would be about £175,000.

The motion was carried on the voices.

State Note Issue.

The New Zealand Notes Bill is the name of the measure just introduced, containing the proposal to issue State notes. Its operation is delayed until 1st January, 1913, by which date banks are to cease making, issuing or reissuing any bank notes whatever under a £5 penalty for each note. The Minister of Finance (meaning the Government) is from that date to issue notes, no limit being set to the total value, but he is to hold as security for their redemption a gold coin reserve not less than (a) one-fourth of the amount of notes issued and outstanding up to £3,000,000, and (b) equal to amount of notes for the time being issued and outstanding in excess of £3,000,000. This reserve is to be held exclusively for the redemption of the notes. A deficiency may be made up out of the consolidated funds; and, per contra, an excess over the necessary reserve may be paid into the consolidated fund. The other details of administration of the reserve are to be left to regulations by the Governor-in-Council.

The notes are to be legal tender except by the Government, and shall be payable to the bearer on demand in gold coin at the Treasury. A monthly statement is to be issued by the secretary of the Treasury, and gazetted, showing the number and amount of notes issued and outstanding, and the amount of the gold reserve.

At the request of Mr. Eli Sir Joseph Ward outlined the above proposals, and explained that the Bank would, of course, be responsible for the payment on all notes issued until their return to the bank, no time limit being fixed in that respect. The operation of the bill was delayed until 1913 in order to give time to provide the necessary gold for the purchase of the notes. The gold reserve was the same as that required at present in respect of the banks. The notes were not to be legal tender by the Government—i.e., the Government could not issue them for their own purposes, and they could not be issued in payment of any claim against the Government. It was not proposed to make any change in the amounts for which bank notes were now issued (£1, £5, etc.), these having been found very convenient.

Mr. Massey suggested that the bill be sent to the Public Accounts Committee.

Sir Joseph Ward declined, saying that he and other members would not have time to attend that Committee every morning for a week at the end of the session. He announced that he intended to take the second reading this session, and if any weakness in the bill were

thereby disclosed, there would be ample time to put it right next session. But whether the bill passed this session or next session, the time for its coming into operation would be 1st January, 1913.



LABOUR DAY, MONDAY, OCTOBER 23.

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FROM ONEHUNGA.

For Hokitanga. LEAVE AUCKLAND. CLAYMORE—Every Thursday For Raglan and Hawke. CLAYMORE—Every Monday WHANGAREI BRANCH. TIME TABLE S.S. NGAPUHI, SEPT. 1911 S.S. Coromandel Leaves

Date.	Goals	Passen.	Mangonui	Parua
2nd—8.45 a.m.	11.25 a.m.	No str.	11 a.m.	Bay.
5th—8.45 a.m.	11.25 a.m.	7 a.m.	No str.	
7th—8.45 a.m.	11.25 a.m.	7 a.m.	0 a.m.	
9th—8.45 a.m.	11.25 a.m.	No str.	9 a.m.	
12th—8.45 a.m.	11.25 a.m.	9 a.m.	No str.	
14th—8.45 a.m.	11.25 a.m.	9 a.m.	13 a.m.	
16th—8.45 a.m.	11.25 a.m.	No str.	11 a.m.	
19th—8.45 a.m.	1.15 p.m.	Nostr.	No str.	
21st—8.45 a.m.	11.25 a.m.	7 a.m.	9 a.m.	
23rd—8.45 a.m.	11.25 a.m.	No str.	9 a.m.	
26th—8.45 a.m.	11.25 a.m.	9 a.m.	No str.	
28th—8.45 a.m.	11.25 a.m.	9 a.m.	11 a.m.	
30th—8.45 a.m.	11.24 a.m.	No str.	11 a.m.	

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Steamers.	Tons.	Captains.	Leave Sydney.
MACDONIA	10,500	C. D. Bennett, R.N.R.	Oct. 21
MARMORA	10,500	C. H. C. Weston, R.N.R.	Nov. 1
INDIA	8,000	G. W. Gordon, R.N.R.	Nov. 18

Steamers.	Tons.	Captains.	Leave Auckland
Moldavia	10,000	E. H. Gordon	Nov. 21
Mooltan	10,000	R. L. Haddock, R.N.R.	Dec. 21
Mantua	11,000	F. W. Vibert, R.N.R.	Jan. 19 1912
Morea	11,000	W. J. Brown, R.N.R.	Feb. 19
Moldavia	10,000	E. H. Gordon	Mar. 15
Mongolia	10,000	C. F. Preston, R.N.R.	Apr. 12

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