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The totalisator : the instrument can't lie / [Siegfried Franck].

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THE
TOTALISATOR.



*“THE INSTRUMENT
CAN'T LIE.”*

THE
PATENT TOTALISATOR

AT the last meeting of the Australian Jockey Club at Randwick two strange sights were seen. On the grass, smoking and chaffing each other, lay many noted bookmakers. No longer, as of old, were their brazen voices heard screaming the odds on each race, their diamond-ringed fingers jotting down bets at every minute, the day being all too short for the business of gain which they pursued with such fevered haste. Strange indeed that the Ring-men should find their occupation gone!

The explanation of this was to be found in a corner of the Saddling Paddock where, around a temporary wooden office, hundreds thronged and, depositing their sovereigns, received tickets in exchange, each bearing a number. These numbers were identical with those on the official programme, everyone selecting that opposite the name of his favourite horse. By an instrument hanging in the office, the total of subscribers, and the amount invested on each number were instantaneously recorded. This was the celebrated "Totalisator Sweepstakes," which for the second time was being so liberally patronized at Randwick. This was the cause of the enforced idleness and the curses of the

bookmakers. The sequel is now being played out at the Water Police Court, where Mr. Siegfried Franck is summoned to answer six informations laid against him by the Police, that he "being the occupier of an office, &c., &c.," did receive certain money, and did promise to pay certain sums "on the happening of a certain event relating to a horse race."

That the public may fully understand the facts of the case, and the reason of the present prosecution, almost amounting to *persecution*, which Mr. Franck is enduring, the writer of this pamphlet has carefully made himself master of all the details and the evidence tendered on each side, and he now presents this to the Australian public as an appeal to their sense of justice. The following plain statement will fully show that this is a case where trickery and fraud are brought together against honesty and fair play.

Mr. Franck is a well-known and respected citizen of Sydney. He has resided here for 26 years, and for 15 of these he was Consul for the German Empire. During a recent visit to Europe his attention became directed to the fact that the Continental Governments encouraged, under various names, "Totalisator Sweepstakes." In Mr. Franck's own words in one of his circulars he states as the reason for this:—

"1st.—Jockeys will no longer be tampered with, the proprietor of the Totalisator being always indifferent as to which horse wins: which must support fair and honest racing.

"2nd.—To diminish the heavy betting on credit, by which many men have lost fortunes, resulting in suicide, robbing of banks and other

employers, to save their names being dishonoured; because bookmakers have, in all parts of the world, the preference over tradesmen. And whoever does not pay on the settling night the amount lost to the bookmakers is liable to have his name publicly posted as a defaulter. And as every visitor to a racecourse likes to have some tangible interest in the result of a race, such disasters are avoided by joining the Totalisator Sweepstake, where nobody can invest more money than he brought with him for that purpose."

Hundreds, ay thousands, of cases might be cited in England and the Colonies showing how men in all ranks of life, from the duke to the bank clerk, have been ruined and dishonoured for life by reckless betting on credit. "Plunging" heavily with the hope that their favourite *might* win, the dreaded "settling night" and the fear of being "posted" as defaulters have caused many to commit crimes to obtain the money to satisfy the leeches of the Turf.

Mr. Franck was so impressed with the advantages to the public, and to himself, of the Totalisator that he determined to introduce it into Australia; but he first took the opinion of a celebrated lawyer, who is also a Member of Parliament, and who has a special knowledge of these subjects, having assisted in framing the "Betting Act." The reply of that gentleman being that the Totalisator would be perfectly legal, Mr. Franck took out the patent right of this instrument for the colonies, and it was first exhibited by him at the Association Ground on the occasion of the cricket match played by the Australian Eleven against fifteen of New

South Wales in December last. Considerable attention and curiosity was caused amongst the spectators at this novelty.

Mr. Franck then obtained permission from the Committee of the Australian Jockey Club to use the Totalisator at the meeting on 18th January last. On the 17th of January Mr. Franck was attacked in a paragraph in the *S. M. Herald*. He consequently called on Mr. Fairfax and remonstrated with him on the unfairness of this, but could obtain no redress. Anxious always to act fully within the law, Mr. Franck then took the opinion of two other well-known legal gentlemen. Their reply was favourable, and they advised Mr. Franck to ask the Inspector-General of Police to examine the instrument, and also to give him full information. Mr. Fosberry was accordingly waited upon, and being told the opinion of the three lawyers, was requested to call at the office and view the "Totalisator." He did not, however, do so, but subsequently saw the instrument publicly worked at Randwick on 18th January.

At this meeting, the Totalisator proved a great success. Strange to say, the *S. M. Herald* gave a sneering report of its workings. The *Evening News* gave the following very fair account, written by the well-known sporting authority and scribe, "Pegasus":—

"But within the paddock there was one new feature, which seems likely to become very popular, and to take a considerable hold on the speculative public. This was the 'Totalisator,' lately introduced from Germany by Mr. Siegfried Franck, on which the importer operated before each race, to the evident satis-

faction of those who patronised him. An attempt had been made, a day or two before, in the *S. M. Herald*, to bring this machine into disrepute, and on Saturday the bookmakers set their faces dead against it; but having had the whole working explained to me, I'm convinced there's nothing fairer in the world. The odds being much longer than what bookmakers lay, of course the public will patronise Mr. Franck and his Totalisator, and consequently the ring will have a proportionate down upon the innovation; but, at any rate, I heard everybody expressing satisfaction after giving the thing a trial. One feature of the wagering on Mr. Franck's plan is, that suppose the race to be won by some horse that nobody has backed, the money is returned to the subscribers, less 10 per cent., 5 per cent. commission being charged under any other circumstances, and this is a feature which would be highly satisfactory to those who invest in the chances of this generally useful scorer, reckoner, and calculator."

The next proceeding in the line of persecution against Mr. Franck was indeed a strange one. In the Parliamentary report of the *S. M. Herald* for January 23rd, we read:—

“Mr. Terry said that a deputation of bookmakers had to-day called his attention to the use of the Totalisator in the Saddling Paddock of the Randwick racecourse, which, if not an infringement of the Betting Act was, at any rate, a breach of the Vagrant Act, and he condemned the conduct of the Inspector-General of Police in allowing this thing to be used. In England, France, and America, stringent mea-

asures had been adopted to prevent the use of this instrument, which was merely a game of chance."

"A deputation of *bookmakers!*" And a Member of Parliament who would receive them, and afterwards act as their mouthpiece! Representative Government is indeed dragged through the mire when such things can occur. It is sufficient to chronicle the fact, without those criticisms thereon, which, until the Parliamentary Privileges Bill is passed, we might with safety indulge in. Mr. Terry was absolutely wrong when he said that on the Continent and in America "stringent measures had been adopted to prevent the use of this instrument." It is legalised and encouraged in those countries. But the bookmakers' representative was bound to make a case on behalf of his constituents. In spite of this Parliamentary froth, the police took no proceedings against Mr. Franck, who was now perfectly satisfied that the instrument which he had spent so much time and money to introduce into the colonies, would prove legally beneficial to the sporting public of Australia.

On the 7th of February Mr. Franck forwarded a circular to every member of Parliament, and the police were not directed to take any steps thereon. The following is an extract:—

"7th February, 1879.

"Appended is result of Patent Totalisator Sweepstake at last Randwick Meeting, conducted on the same plan so highly approved of at Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburg, Hamburg, and all Continental towns of Europe, and the whole of America. Also illustration of Totalisator with explanation of working and results; together with opinions of the Sydney Press.

Result of 1st Totalisator Sweepstake, introduced in Australia, on the 18th January, 1879, in the Randwick Saddling Paddock at the Australian Jockey Club Meeting:—

Club Meeting:—

Quotations of Bookmakers' odds as per <i>Evening News</i> of 20th January.	Quotations of Bookmakers' odds as per <i>S. M. Herald</i> of 20th January.	Race.	Winner.	Totalisator amount paid for each £1 invested by the public.
5 to 2 agst. Expectation..	5 to 2 agst. Expectation..	Flying Handicap ..	Expectation.	£5
Nil " Poverty	Nil " Poverty	Hurdle Race	Poverty	£45 12s.
100 to 7 " Andover	12 to 1 " Andover	Souvenir	Andover	£16 3s.
3 to 1 " Rifleman ...	3 to 1 " Rifleman ..	Welter Plate	Rifleman...	£5 15s.
2 to 1 " Pontiff	5 to 2 " Pontiff	Valentia Cup	Pontiff	£3 12s.
6 to 1 " Hubert	6 to 1 " Hubert	Farewell Handicap	Hubert	£9

This circular so plainly showed the advantages of the Totalisator as a public sweepstakes that the members of the Betting Ring saw that their ancient prosperity and glory were passing away. On April 10th, at a meeting of a well-known betting club called "Tattersall's" the members passed a resolution that the use of the Totalisator was "contrary to the true interests of sport." "Sport," to the minds of bookmakers, mostly means only plenty of dupes to fleece. The Committee of the Australian Jockey Club was requested not to allow the Totalisator to be used again, but fortunately this Committee consists of gentlemen who recognize the great advantage to the public in these Sweepstakes, and they granted permission to have the instrument worked again at the Autumn Meeting.

But in consequence of sinister threats made to Mr. Franck he again called on Mr. Fosberry, and begged him if he had any doubt of the legality of the Totalisator, according to the expressed opinion of the three lawyers, to have the question tested before the Autumn Races. Detective Lyons received from Mr. Franck full information as to the instrument, and circulars descriptive of the working thereof. Afterwards Mr. Fosberry was waited upon and asked if he was satisfied as to the legality of the Totalisator, to which he replied that he did not think it was legal, and that he would test the case after the instrument had again been worked on a race-course, as he required witnesses who had purchased tickets. Mr. Franck, desiring not to do anything illegal, offered to bring forward a dozen witnesses who purchased tickets on 18th

January, and also to make an affidavit as to the workings of the instrument. But Mr. Fosberry declined the offer, and said that he must test the case after the meeting.

After all these straightforward proceedings of Mr. Franck, he was served with five summonses on information laid by two detectives, to appear before the Police Court in reference to sweepstakes made up at Randwick Autumn Meeting by him. On the 1st of May (the second day of hearing before the magistrates, when the case was adjourned to the 8th May), before Mr. Frank left the Court, he received a sixth summons on same charge.

IS THIS PROSECUTING OR PERSECUTING ?

Is there an influence at work in our midst, subtle, and dangerous, and powerful, which poisons the minds and morals of the people? Is there a body which can pervert Parliament, Press, and Police? It would almost seem that the Betting Ring has the power. The bookmakers have their spokesman in the House. They dictate to bodies of gentlemen like the Committee of the Australian Jockey Club; they apparently set the police in motion in this case, and they influence the Press—the highly immaculate Press of Sydney; The *Sydney Morning Herald*, which is edited by broken-down parsons, and always pretends to “unco’ godliness,” yet keeps a “tout,” and faithfully chronicles the betting markets, advertising the bookmakers in that respect—this godly paper, which assumes to detest gambling, and even dared to lecture our late esteemed Governor, Sir Hercules Robinson, for his love

of sport, is yet in this case of Mr. Franck's an ally and accomplice of the members of the Betting Ring.

The proof of this is that on three occasions the *S. M. Herald* has published accusations in the shape of paragraphs and letters against Mr. Franck and the Totalisator, and has refused to insert his advertisement showing the fairness of the proceedings at the late meeting at Randwick. The *S. M. Herald* will advertise the bookmakers free of charge by quoting their betting, and will not insert anything in favour of the Totalisator, which, if thoroughly worked (a consummation devoutly to be wished!) would ruin the Ring.

On the opposite page is the advertisement refused by the *S. M. Herald* and the *Echo*, and which appeared in the *Evening News* of April 23rd :—

RESULT OF PATENT TOTALISATOR SWEEPSTAKES, made up on the Randwick Course at the Australian Jockey Club Meeting, 1879, with quotation of Bookmakers' odds attached.

Quotations of Bookmakers' odds against the winner, as per <i>Evening News.</i>	Quotations of Bookmakers' odds against the winner, as per <i>S. M. Herald.</i>	Race.	Winner.	Amount paid for each £ invested in Totalisator Sweepstakes.
5 to 1	7 to 1	Hurdle Race	Jupiter	£ 16 s. 12 d.
No betting	3 to 1 on Chester	Autumn Stakes ...	Chester	1 13 0
10 to 1	10 to 1	Champagne Stakes	Baronet	9 18 0
3 to 1 on Bosworth	3 to 1 on Bosworth	St. Leger	Bosworth ...	1 13 0
8 to 1	10 to 1	Doncaster Handicap	The Hook ...	11 9 0
2 to 1	2 to 1	Trial Stakes.....	Avernus.....	4 14 0
4 to 1	6 to 1	Flying Handicap...	Success	6 5 0
6 to 4	7 to 4	Autumn M. Stakes	Petrea	3 12 0
3 to 1	5 to 2	Sydney Cup	Savanaka ...	6 5 0
2 to 1	2 to 1	Breeders' Plate ...	Baronet	5 2 0
5 to 4 on Viscount	Even & 5 to 4 on Viscount	Selling Plate	Viscount ...	2 15 0
No quotation	3 to 1	Sapling Stakes ..	Queensland..	19 19 0
4 to 1	6 to 1	All-aged Stakes ...	Avernus	8 9 0
3 to 1	3 to 1	Two-year-old Plate	Peter	4 3 0
3 to 1	3 to 1	Sires' Prod. Stakes	Nellie	5 13 0
5 to 1 on Chester	No quotation	Cumberland Stakes	Chester	1 9 0
12 to 1	—	City Handicap.....	Falcon	32 13 0
4 to 1	No quotation	Rous Handicap ...	Blackthorn..	7 3 0
Even Money	5 to 4	Randwick Stakes..	Egremont ...	2 11 0
4 to 1 on Chester	5 to 1 on Chester	A. J. C. Plate	Chester	1 15 0
2 to 1 and 3 to 1	4 to 1	Steeplechase	Warrong	3 8 0

The last two races were each won by one of four horses, called Field on Totalisator, and those tickets realised for :—Nursery Handicap, £5 14s.; Free Handicap, £2 19s. **SIEGFRIED FRANCK.**

The *Evening News*, however, on April 23rd, the case being first heard at the Water Police Court on April 24th, contained a very sneering, if not libellous paragraph against Mr. Franck. The trail of the bookmaker is perceptible throughout the whole Press of Sydney. "Pegasus" alone has spoken the truth on this subject. To whose interest is it that Mr. Franck should be thus persecuted, and the Totalisator declared illegal?

Is it generally known that in Sydney and Melbourne there are more than 200 bookmakers, who travel about to almost every race in the colonies? At the most moderate computation this must entail an expenditure of £400 a-year each. Many spend thousands a-year. This amounts to £80,000 per annum, and as the bookmakers are nearly always able to pay their bets, when they lose, it proves that the public is yearly bled to the extent of **£80,000**. But if such an amount had been invested in Totalisator Sweepstakes, the public would have saved about **£76,000**. The difference has been netted by those parasites of sport whose characters are so well known to the public. It is to support these that Mr. Franck is persecuted!

The prospectus printed at the end of this pamphlet fully explains the action of the Totalisator. It is in fact nothing but an ingenious marking-board, almost the same in principle as the books kept by secretaries of all racing clubs in the colonies. This marking board has been used at the two last cricket matches for scoring, to the great satisfaction of the public, and is also useful for many other purposes, as stated at foot of the prospectus.

Every Racing Club in the colonies has several sweepstakes in its list of "events." These are made up beforehand for horse races to be decided thereafter, and each club has an office for the purpose of receiving sweepstakes money. Each club is compensated by entrance fees at gate, charge of admission to saddling paddock, letting grounds for booths to publicans, caterers, &c. What is the difference between Totalisator sweepstakes and race club sweepstakes? Both do the same thing; but one is paid by a 5 per cent. commission, and the other by charging admission fees. Sweepstakes are made up in public houses amongst the friends of the competitors in rowing matches and race programmes contain perforated numbers and names of horses for the drawing of sweepstakes.

Sweepstakes are thus recognised by law and custom, as being perfectly legal. There can, then, be neither reason nor justice in charging Mr. Franck with committing a crime in being a holder of money in a public sweepstakes to decide the merits of horses running in another sweepstakes organised by the Secretary of the Australian Jockey Club, and for which Mr. Clibborn has received the money.

It has been suggested that the Totalisator might be manipulated to the prejudice of the public. This suggestion was made by an informer, a low-class betting man; but the perusal of the prospectus will show that this is impossible. When a race starts, there stands the Totalisator, the figures telling to each man what he will receive in the event of his horse winning. As a fact nearly all the winners in the sweepstakes at Randwick had calculated

out, and marked on their tickets, what they should receive. The working is simplicity itself, and "the instrument can't lie." Mr. Franck offers £100 to any one who can falsify the Totalisator, if practised according to prospectus.

Ought not rather the authorities in Australia to thank the introducer of the Totalisator instead of persecuting him? The instrument will tend to ruin the betting ring—the greatest curse of modern sport. *It will return to the pockets of the public thousands of pounds yearly*, which now go to keep in wanton luxury and riot those kings of the bagnio and pot-house, who are members of that ring. It will put a stop to plunging and heavy betting, and it is a legal method of acquiring an interest in a race. For according to the testimony of gentlemen in high position, who have recently returned from England, the Totalisators are allowed on race-courses there. They are legalised on the Continent and in America, and it is not to be supposed that the Totalisator will be condemned here.

There is not the slightest doubt that Mr. Franck will get justice at the Water Police Court, but he deserves public sympathy and support for his honest and fair endeavours to purify the sport of this colony—for which he has, as yet, only been persecuted as a criminal. No doubt he will be rewarded, as all inventors and originators should be rewarded, but his greatest claim to the public thanks will be that he has substituted for the present extortionate system of bookmaking, an easy, honest and practicable method of investing in sweepstakes which will benefit the many instead of the few.

PROSPECTUS AND EXPLANATION OF TOTALISATOR SWEEPSTAKES.

Shares will be issued in sums of £1 and £5 each, and an unlimited amount may be invested upon any Number; the Numbers on the Totalisator answering to those on the Programme.

Upon receipt of Subscription a Ticket will be given for the number applied for, and the amount of Shares taken at once marked on the Totalisator against the number chosen; the total amount of the Sweepstakes being, by the mechanism of this patent invention, simultaneously recorded, so that no misunderstanding can arise.

The Sweepstakes is p.p. and goes with the prize.

The whole amount of the Sweepstakes, less 5 per cent. commission, will be ratably divided between the Shareholders of the winning number; but no fraction of a shilling will be paid.

If a blank number wins, 18s. in the £ will be returned to each shareholder.

No tickets will be issued for any race after the horses have started.

Immediately on the start a check will be put upon the Totalisator, and a copy of its record hung up beside the instrument, which will remain unaltered for five minutes after the winning horse's number has been posted.

Payment will be made one hour after the decision of the race, or if possible sooner.

In the case of a dead heat not run off, one half of the amount will be apportioned to each of the winning numbers, and then ratably divided amongst the several Shareholders of each number.

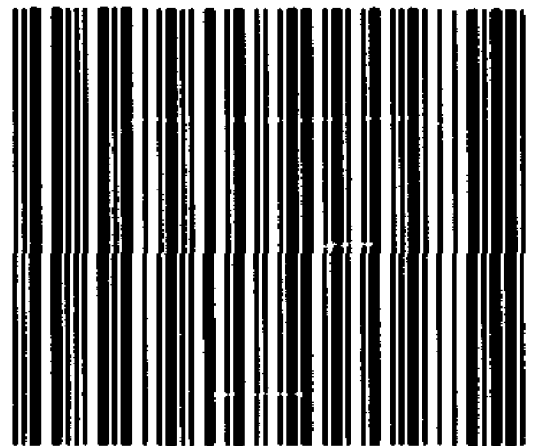
It is distinctly understood that the undersigned *accepts the money as the applicant's agent and stakeholder*, and that as soon as the amount of the Sweepstakes has been distributed under the above regulations, all further responsibility ceases.

The Totalisator is also commended as being valuable to Hotel Keepers in checking consumption and cash receipts; checking gatekeepers at public entertainments, discharging and receiving cargoes of merchandise, receipt and delivery of bonded stocks and merchants goods, ballot papers at elections, passenger traffic by steamers, omnibuses, or railways, and scoring at cricket matches, &c., &c.

The patent right of the Totalisator has been purchased by the undersigned for all countries south of the equator, and also secured to him in these Colonies.

SIEGFRIED FRANCK.

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W. C. J.