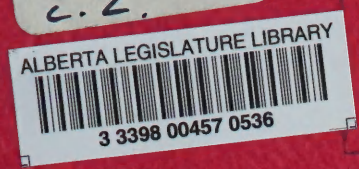

Alberta Racing Commission.

Annual Report, 1963.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE ALBERTA RACING COMMISSION

October 1st, 1962 - December 31st, 1963.

To: Honourable Ambrose Holowach,
Provincial Secretary,
Province of Alberta.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

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ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION

This is the first Annual Report of the Alberta Racing Commission since its creation following the proclaiming of The Alberta Racing Commission Act on October 1st, 1962, and the appointment of three Members by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The period from October 1st, 1962 to March 31st, 1963, was one of establishment and organization. During that period the Commission held many meetings.

The Commission spent considerable time drafting Rules to be promulgated to govern Thoroughbred and Trotting, Pacing and Harness Racing. Consultations were held with qualified racing officials and authorities and reference was made to Rules in force and used by previous racing jurisdictions in Alberta and by other Racing Commissions in Canada, the United States and overseas. The Thoroughbred Rules promulgated were reviewed with representatives of the Edmonton and Calgary Exhibition Associations and their operating organization, The Western Canada Racing Association Ltd., the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, the Alberta Thoroughbred Association, the Jockey's Benefit Association of Canada and the Southern Alberta Racing Association Ltd., at a meeting held in Calgary immediately prior to the opening of the 1963 thoroughbred season. Similarly, a

meeting was held with representatives of Western Harness Raceways Ltd., to consider with them Rules to be promulgated by the Commission to govern Trotting, Pacing and Harness racing. As a result of these meetings, some changes and additions to the Rules were adopted and adequate provision made for the needs of the 1963 racing season. It must be stressed that the Rules of the Commission are under constant scrutiny and review and changes and additions are adopted from time to time to provide for ever changing conditions and needs.

Funds for the establishment and organization expenses of the Commission were provided by Special Warrant No. 67-62-63 and the expenditures were as follows:

Remuneration, Commission Members	$ 5,750.00
Office Equipment, Materials & Supplies	2,726.04
Travelling Expenses	1,816.64
Legal Fees	1,500.00
Membership Fees	550.00
Telephone and Telegraph Charges	56.45
Office Rent	50.00
Postage	18.60
Miscellaneous	65.22
	$ 12,532.95

THOROUGHBRED RACING

1. MEETINGS

There were ten race meetings and eighty-seven days of racing in 1963 as follows:

Calgary	3 meetings	40 days of racing
Edmonton	3	35
Lethbridge	1	7
Lake McGregor	1	2
Millarville	1	1
Stettler	1	2

Complete statistical information is attached hereto in Schedule "A" which forms a part of this Report.

2. LICENSES

All persons conducting race meetings and those directly associated with the running of races are licensed by the Commission. Licenses issued and license fees collected in 1963 were as follows:

Race Meetings:

Calgary Exhibition & Stampede Ltd., Calgary Alberta.	$ 16,000.00
Edmonton Exhibition Association Limited, Edmonton, Alberta	14,000.00
Southern Alberta Racing Association Ltd., Lethbridge, Alberta	875.00
Lake McGregor Memorial Park Association, Queenstown, Alta.	5.00
Millarville Racing & Sports Association, Midnapore, Alberta	5.00
Stettler Light Horse Association, Stettler, Alberta	5.00
	$ 30,890.00

Personnel:

419 Owners	4,190.00
144 Trainers	1,440.00
59 Stable Names	590.00
40 Jockeys & Apprentice Jockeys	200.00
26 Jockey's Agents	130.00
126 Authorized Agents	126.00
47 Exercise Boys	47.00
266 Grooms	266.00
13 Veterinarians	65.00
	$ 7,054.00

3. RACE OFFICIALS

The Commission was successful in securing the services of Col. J.R. Younger, to act as Commission Steward at Edmonton and Calgary. Col. Younger is well known in Western Canada thoroughbred racing circles, as he acted as Steward representing the Alberta-Saskatchewan Thoroughbred Society during the years 1961 and 1962, when that body acted as the governing body of thoroughbred racing in Alberta and Saskatchewan. He has a wide and varied knowledge of all phases of the sport and a reputation for outstanding ability, thoroughness and impartiality. Unfortunately, he found it necessary, for personal reasons, to return to Florida during the course of the season. The

Commission was fortunate to secure qualified replacements in Mr. Louis H. Eilken and Mr. D. J. Wilson Dunn, who between them completed the balance of the season.

The Steward representing the Commission at each race meeting had associated with him throughout the season, two Stewards representing the Licensees conducting the meetings. Together, the three Stewards acted as a panel in their supervision of all racing.

Dr. J. Gordon Anderson, D.V.M., Calgary, Alberta, acted as Commission Veterinarian at all meetings at Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge. Dr. Anderson is well known as a race horse Veterinarian and the Commission was fortunate to have the benefit of his knowledge and experience throughout the 1963 season.

4. STEWARDS' RULINGS

The Stewards issued 37 rulings involving personnel licensed by the Commission for infractions of its Rules. The infractions of the Rules included alleged "touting", disorderly and improper conduct, outstanding financial obligations, faulty entries, improper and poor riding, associating or fraternizing with persons under suspension by this Commission and the possession or use of hypodermic syringes and drugs and stimulants. The rulings imposed penalties consisting of the suspension of licenses or the payment of fines, or a combination of the two and for varying periods of time and sums of money, in keeping with established turf procedure and the nature and severity of the infraction or violation of the Rules.

The Commission cannot emphasize too strongly the seriousness with which it views the possession and use of hypodermic syringes and narcotics and drugs which may affect the performance of a horse by those other than qualified and licensed veterinarians. It provides rules prohibiting the possession and use of same and penalties for infractions of those rules. During the past season, the Stewards issued three rulings for the possession and/or use of hypodermic syringes and drugs.

In one case, the Ruling imposed a suspension of the license of the offender for a period of sixty racing days. In each of the other two cases, where the offenders were actually caught in the act of injecting or attempting to inject a horse just prior to a race, the ruling recommended a fine of $1,000.00 and permanent expulsion from racing in Alberta. The latter two rulings were referred to the Commission. A public hearing was held and fines of $1,000.00 were imposed on each of the offenders and their licenses were revoked. This is believed to be among the more severe penalties handed down by any Commission in North America in recent years.

The Stewards also suspended an owner-trainer and a jockey for continuously associating with people already under suspension by this Commission. The Stewards' rulings were appealed to the Commission. After a public hearing the appeals were dismissed and the rulings upheld.

Both hearings conducted by the Commission in 1963 were open to the public and members of the racing fraternity were encouraged to attend. At each hearing the attendance taxed the capacity of the room in which the hearings were held. By attending these hearings those engaged in racing are made aware that anyone who appears before the Commission is assured of a fair and thorough hearing, they become more familiar with the rules and recognize that the Commission will not tolerate the ignoring of its rules or infractions of them.

The Commission intends to press its efforts to control and eliminate the use of those drugs or stimulants which can affect the performance of a horse in a manner detrimental to the public interest. It feels most strongly that such a course is essential if the sport of horse racing is to prosper and if the public interest is to be protected.

5. GENERAL

Thoroughbred racing is well established in Alberta. It finds ready acceptance with a considerable segment of the citizens of the Province and its

administration is currently in the hands of persons who are ever conscious of their responsibility to all those directly involved in the sport, as well as the general, or betting public. The sport is efficiently managed and well presented for public acceptance.

TROTTING, PACING & HARNESS RACING

6. MEETINGS

There were three race meetings and 40 days of racing in 1963 as follows:

Calgary	1 meeting	12 days of racing
Edmonton	2 meetings	28 days of racing

Complete statistical information is attached hereto in Schedule "B" which forms a part of this report.

7. LICENSES

As in the case of Thoroughbred racing, the Rules provide that all persons conducting race meetings and those directly associated with the running of races shall be licensed by the Commission. Licenses issued and license fees collected in 1963 were as follows:

Race Meetings:

Western Harness Raceways Ltd.,	
Calgary	$1,620.00
Edmonton	2,660.00
	$4,280.00

Personnel:

Owners, Trainers, Drivers, Exercise Boys, Stable Names, Grooms, Hot Walkers and Veterinarians	$205.00

License fees assessed against those conducting race meetings reflect, in part, the cost of the Commission's racing officials, which costs vary from city to city. This accounts for the difference in the license fees between Edmonton and Calgary.

8. RACE OFFICIALS

Mr. Jack Forbes, Edmonton, Alberta, acted as Commission Judge and he was assisted by two Judges appointed by the Western Harness Raceways Ltd. Dr. Roy Saito, Leduc, Alberta, was the Commission's Veterinarian at both Edmonton and Calgary. Officials of the Commission displayed a knowledge of the sport in which they are engaged and a keen sense of duty and responsibility, not only to the Commission, but to all those directly engaged in the sport and to the general public, as well.

9. JUDGES' RULINGS

The Judges issued fourteen rulings involving licensees for infractions of the Rules of the Commission. The rulings imposed penalties for faulty or bad driving, bad conduct and for the possession of hypodermic syringes and the use of drugs and stimulants. The resulting penalties included the suspension of licenses for varying periods of time and the imposition of fines. Three Rulings involving the possession and use of hypodermic syringes and drugs were reviewed by the Commission. Because of the seriousness with which the Commission views this particular infraction of its Rules, it extended or increased the penalties originally imposed by the Judges. In one instance, a fine imposed by the Judges and concurred in by the Commission remains unpaid. As a consequence, the licensee in question remains under suspension, at least until such time as the fine is paid, when the case may be reviewed by the Commission once again.

10. GENERAL

Trotting, Pacing and Harness Racing, with pari-mutuel wagering, is a comparatively new endeavor in Alberta. It appears to be gaining in popularity with a growing number of the citizens of the Province. A good deal of credit is due those

who pioneered the sport and who apparently have and continue to be willing to put forth time, effort and no doubt financial resources to have it established on a sound financial basis. They are worthy of consideration and encouragement in their efforts. At the same time, the Commission must emphasize that it considers its rules basic and minimum to the interests of the general public, including all those directly connected with the sport and the Rules and licensing requirements must be fully respected and observed if the sport is to continue and prosper in the Province of Alberta.

GENERAL

11. INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

The Income of the Commission is derived from license fees paid by persons who conduct race meetings and owners, trainers, drivers and other personnel directly connected with the running of races together with fines imposed against licensees for infractions of the Rules of the Commission. The cost of maintaining the Commission includes the Commissioners' honorariums; fees and expenses of Commission Stewards, Judges and Veterinarians; Legal Fees; Travelling Expenses; Horse Tattooing costs; the provision and distribution of Rule Books and the cost of maintaining the office of the Commission, including rent, office assistance, printed forms and supplies, postage, telephones, telegrams, etc.

Considerable time was spent prior to the commencement of the current year in estimating the cost of maintaining the Commission and of assessing such costs against all segments of the sport on a fair and equitable basis. The Commission took into account the need for efficiency and economy and the desirability of achieving a balanced budget. Without prior experience or comparisons to use as a guide, it was somewhat difficult to estimate both Income and Expenditures. Many "unknowns" present themselves, such as the number and amount of fines which may be imposed during the

season and the number and cost of hearings or appeals there may be against decisions of the Stewards and Judges for infractions of the Rules of the Commission. During the year under review, the amount of Income derived from fines was in excess of budget estimates and the cost of hearings and appeals less than budget estimates. Had it not been for these two factors, the Income and Expenditures of the Commission would have been in close balance and in keeping with budget estimates. As it was, they contributed to the estimated excess of Income over Expenditure which is revealed by the following interim statement:

	April 1st to Dec.31/63	Jan.1st to Mar.31/64 (Estimate)	Total April 1/63 to Mar.31/64
INCOME:			
Thoroughbred:			
Licenses	37,944.00	-	37,944.00
Fines	3,400.00	-	3,400.00
Trotting, Pacing & Harness:			
Licenses	4,485.00	-	4,485.00
Fines	310.00	-	310.00
	$46,139.00	-	$46,139.00
EXPENDITURES:			
Commissioners' Honorariums	5,250.00	5,250.00	10,500.00
Stewards' Fees & Expenses	13,535.75	-	13,535.75
Judge's Fees	1,300.00	-	1,300.00
Veterinarians' Fees & Expenses	6,370.00	350.00	6,720.00
Horse Tattooing Costs	800.66	-	800.66
Stationery & Office Supplies	717.94	50.00	767.94
Telephone, Telegraph & Postage	413.24	150.00	563.24
Travelling Expenses	902.75	1,800.00	2,702.75
Legal Fees	-	750.00	750.00
Office Rentals	225.00	75.00	300.00
Office Assistance	676.50	58.20	734.70
Hearings & Appeals	855.00	-	855.00
Membership - N.A.S.R.C.	-	550.00	550.00
Insurance Premiums	170.05	-	170.05
Miscellaneous	60.38	-	60.38
	$31,277.27	$9,033.20	$40,310.47
EXCESS INCOME over EXPENDITURES	$14,861.73	($9,033.20)	$ 5,828.53

12. PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING

The supervision of pari-mutuel wagering is a responsibility of the Government of Canada and comes under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. The Department has on loan to it each year a number of Royal Canadian Mounted Police personnel, who in addition to their duties in the supervision of betting, do a most excellent and thorough job of security, surveillance and investigating of many of the aspects of racing and race personnel. The Commission is pleased to be able to report that it had the full support and confidence of the supervisory staff of the Federal Department of Agriculture and in particular of the R.C.M.P. detachment assigned to it. It cannot speak too highly of their keen sense of duty and responsibility and of their assistance, or be too loud in its praise of the efforts they put forth to investigate all possible infractions of the Rules of the Commission. Without this assistance and co-operation the duties and responsibilities of the Commission would have been much more onerous. In fact the expenses of the Commission would be substantially increased had it to provide its own security and conduct its own investigations of a comparable calibre.

13. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE RACING COMMISSIONERS

This Commission is an associate member of this important organization, which includes in its membership other Canadian Commissions, most of the Commissions in the United States and some of those existing in other foreign countries. Amongst its many functions, the National Association distributes to all its members a weekly bulletin in which is recorded all disciplinary rulings imposed by all member Commissions, as well as changes in their Rules, statistical data, etc. Each member Commission honours the rulings of other member Commissions. In this way, all Commissions are kept well informed. Undesirable race personnel and practices are

made known to all and can be controlled and largely eliminated in the best interests of all those engaged in the sport of horse racing, as well as the general public.

The Association holds an annual meeting. In 1963, the meeting was held at Phoenix, Arizona. The Commissioners attended and it is their opinion that they derived considerable benefit from many of the topics discussed.

14. COMMUNITY RACE MEETINGS

This report indicates that the Commission granted licenses for two race meetings for two days each and one for one day, all three with pari-mutuel wagering. The meetings were conducted under the auspices of community organizations, two being annual events of long standing. The third marked the revival of racing, but with the addition of pari-mutuel wagering. These community endeavors are well organized and handled and staffed by enthusiastic, local citizens, who give freely and generously of their time and knowledge of racing. They are eagerly awaited events in their respective communities and are well supported. The Commission is of the opinion that they serve a useful community purpose and make a worth-while contribution to the horse industry and horse racing in the Province of Alberta. Another community meeting which has been an annual event at High River for many years was of necessity cancelled in 1963, because of the loss of a portion of the track facilities to other uses. It is the understanding of the Commission that efforts are being made to resume normal activities in 1964.

15. DAYS OF RACING

The Commission gave careful consideration to the prevailing pattern of the location and number of race meetings and days of racing in the Province. It came to the conclusion the schedule was in keeping with the current population and economy of the Province. Applications for meetings and days of racing were considered and licenses approved accordingly. It is the considered opinion of the Commission that

if desirable practices and results are to be achieved and maintained, in the public interest, there should not be any significant increase in the number of race meetings and the number of days of racing, for the present or for the immediate future.

16. BREEDERS' PREMIUMS

The policy adopted by the Commission is that while it is in favor of encouraging the race horse breeding industry in Alberta, it is not the function of the Commission to undertake either the collection or distribution of some form of breeders' premiums. It is the view of the Commission that Breeders' Premiums is a matter to be resolved by those engaged in the racing industry themselves, both as to the nature of the policy to be adopted and the method of implementing same. It should be pointed out that the Commission is not opposed to financial support and encouragement to those breeding Alberta race horses. There is not anything in the Rules of the Commission which prohibits the payment of breeders' premiums or the promotion of the race horse breeding industry in this Province. The Commission does not consider that it would be in the public interest or in the interest of racing to finance any such breeders' premiums through any increase in the pari-mutuel 'take-out'.

17. TATTOOING

By agreement with the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau, New York, the Commission assumed responsibility for and continued the practice in effect in Alberta during the past two or three years of tattooing thoroughbred horses racing in this Province. Tattooing provides the best means of horse identification known to date. It is considered to be in the best interests both of the industry and the general public.

18. ATTENDANCE AT RACE MEETINGS

Members of the Commission made regular visits to all race meetings while in progress to observe the conduct of racing. They were also available throughout the year for consultation with racing association officials and all others, whether directly connected with, or interested in some phase of racing in Alberta.

19. BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

The Commissioners' attendance at races and race tracks included inspections of the buildings, grounds and equipment of the track operators. As a result of the inspections, the Commission has made various recommendations, suggestions and requests for changes, additions and improvements to buildings, grounds and equipment, which in the view of the Commission are either desirable or essential in the public good. In every instance, the response of the operators and others concerned has been favorable and assurances have been given that the views and wishes of the Commission will receive every consideration. In some cases the Commission's recommendations, or portions of them, have already been implemented or commenced.

20. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Commission wishes to acknowledge the whole-hearted co-operation and generous assistance it received throughout the year from the following:

Mr. Lou Davies, General Manager, and staff Western Canada Racing Association Ltd.

Mr. A. J. Anderson, General Manager, and staff Edmonton Exhibition Association Ltd.

Mr. M. E. Hartnett, General Manager, and staff Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Ltd.

Messrs. Lee S. Williams, President, N.L.Chapman, Treasurer, Southern Alberta Racing Association Limited

Lord Roderick Gordon, President, Alberta Thoroughbred Association

Col. J. Fred Scott, President, Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association

Mr. Emil Roy, Secretary-Manager, Jockey's Benefit Association of Canada

Mr. W. J. Connelly, President, Western Harness Raceways Ltd.

Mr. Gordon M. Findlay, Secretary, Canadian Trotting Association

Mr. S. B. Pratt, Chief, Pari-Mutuel Betting, Canada Department of Agriculture

Cpl. D. W. Armstrong, officer in charge and Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Race Track Supervision Detail.

The members of this Commission, having the experience of one racing season behind them, feel that the establishment of the Commission by the Provincial Legislature has been beneficial to racing in this Province.

Respectfully submitted.

Dated at the City of Edmonton, Province of Alberta, this 4th day of February, 1964.

Chairman - D. K. Yorath

Vice-Chairman - C.W. Adams

Commissioner-Secretary - L.P. Bromham

SCHEDULE "A"

PARI-MUTUEL STATISTICS
THOROUGHBRED RACING - 1963

	Days	No. of Races	Amount Wagered	Pari-Mutuel Percentages	Breaks	Total Retained
CALGARY	40	320	6,530,932.00	587,783.88	43,872.53	631,656.41
EDMONTON	35	280	8,411,539.00	757,038.51	51,026.90	808,065.41
LETHBRIDGE	7	54	356,973.00	32,127.57	2,447.59	34,575.16
LAKE McGREGOR	2	14	6,318.00	568.62	59.19	627.81
MILLARVILLE	1	8	9,384.00	844.56	96.12	940.68
STETTLER	2	9	5,518.00	496.62	39.59	536.21
	87	685	$15,320,664.00	1,378,859.76	97,541.92	1,476,401.68

	Alberta Government Tax	Net Gate Receipts	Gross Prize Money	Attendance
CALGARY	326,546.60	95,747.00	363,690.00	136,952
EDMONTON	420,576.95	117,715.00	388,595.00	168,121
LETHBRIDGE	17,848.65	4,863.00	23,000.00	8,040
LAKE McGREGOR	315.90	3,374.00	785.00	2,806
MILLARVILLE	469.20	1,009.00	1,750.00	1,009
STETTLER	275.90	4,538.60	650.00	13,614
	$ 766,033.20	227,246.60	778,470.00	330,542

Source: Chief, Pari-Mutuel Betting, Canada Department of Agriculture.

SCHEDULE "B"

PARI-MUTUEL STATISTICS

TROTTING, PACING & HARNESS RACING - 1963

	Days	No. of Races	Amount Wagered	Pari-Mutuel Percentages	Breaks	Total Retained
CALGARY	12	106	480,932.00	43,283.88	3,820.74	47,104.62
EDMONTON	28	263	3,057,090.00	275,138.10	22,859.28	297,997.38
	40	369	$3,538,022.00	318,421.98	26,680.02	345,102.00

	Alberta Government Tax	Net Gate Receipts	Gross Prize Money	Attendance
CALGARY	24,046.60	16,394.75	36,250.00	22,462
EDMONTON	152,854.50	50,260.50	101,450.00	86,289
	176,901.10	66,655.25	137,700.00	108,751

Source: Chief, Pari-Mutuel Betting, Canada Department of Agriculture.

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