

18 Months In Prison For \$3000 Theft

Staff Reporter Rotorua

The former manager of a television hire company who embezzled more than \$3000 from the company was sentenced in the Rotorua Magistrate's Court yesterday to 18 months in prison.

George Paul Trbuhovich, aged 25, was appearing for sentence on three charges of theft by failing to account and one of theft as a servant, to which he had previously pleaded guilty.

His counsel, Mr D. G. P. Russell, said Trbuhovich began employment with the company immediately after leaving school and quickly rose through the ranks.

He was sent to Rotorua as branch manager and his wages were \$50 a week gross.

At the age of 25 he found himself mixing with men in comparatively similar positions but who were generally older and earning more money.

Turned to Racetrack

He found himself striving to compete socially and financially and in other ways and so began dabbling with the company's money, said Mr Russell.

Trbuhovich had no intention of keeping the money and right to the last was stricken by conscience and tried to repay it.