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No. 53.] Saturday, December 23rd, 1911. [One Penny.

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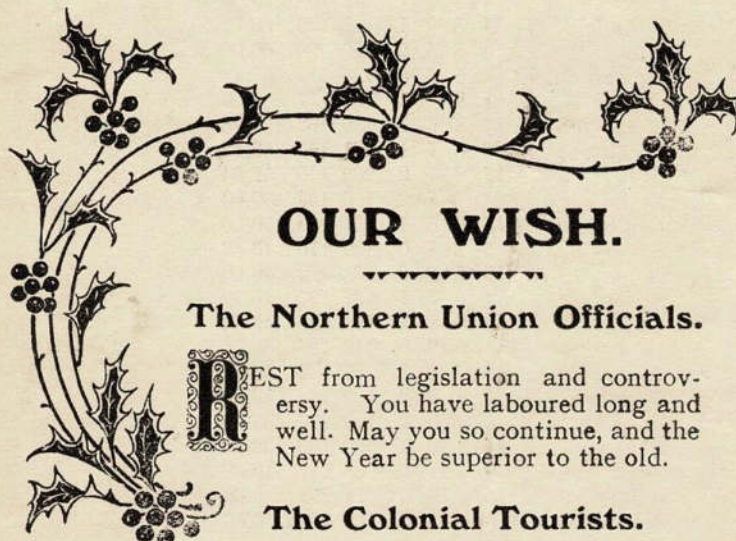
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THE NORTHERN UNION NEWS.

No. 53.]

Saturday, December 23rd, 1911.

[One Penny.]



OUR WISH.

The Northern Union Officials.

REST from legislation and controversy. You have laboured long and well. May you so continue, and the New Year be superior to the old.

The Colonial Tourists.

You have done well. Though your Christmas will not be spent beneath a cloudless sky, we hope our weather will not damp your spirits. And may your pleasures be none the less hearty.

Our Referees.

Rules, rules and loose heads begone. For this festive season be content, and give us the game. We seek to be amused not educated.

Our Readers.

We give the old, old wish. None can better convey our feelings. A happy, happy Christmas, and a bright and prosperous New Year.

Northern Union League.—Results up to this morning.

					Points.	Per-
					P.W.L.D.	For Ags. centge
Wigan	14	13	1	0	216	66..92.85
Huddersfield	15	12	2	1	376	121..83.33
Halifax	15	11	2	2	239	59..80.00
Hull K. R.	14	11	3	0	244	75..78.57
St. Helens	14	10	4	0	214	97..71.42
Hunslet	15	10	4	1	210	108..70.00
Wakefield T.	14	8	5	1	188	129..60.71
Widnes	15	8	5	2	120	90..60.00
Broughton R.	14	8	6	0	118	110..57.14
Oldham	15	8	6	1	194	177..56.66
Dewsbury	15	8	6	1	188	162..56.66
Warrington	16	8	7	1	121	154..53.12
Hull	17	8	7	2	209	146..52.94
Rochdale H.	14	7	7	0	150	167..50.00
Keighley	13	6	6	1	151	179..50.00
Batley	15	7	8	0	139	110..46.66
Leeds	15	7	8	0	165	172..46.66
Salford	14	6	7	1	137	137..46.42
Leigh	15	6	8	1	174	137..43.33
York	14	5	9	0	112	198..35.71
Barrow	13	4	8	1	97	142..34.61
Swinton	15	4	9	2	109	164..33.33
Coventry	15	4	9	2	107	290..33.33
Runcorn	15	4	10	1	100	169..30.00
Ebbw Vale	15	1	11	3	68	247..16.66
Bradford	15	1	14	0	71	291..6.66
Bramley	15	0	13	2	63	382..6.66

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE.

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE.

Scores.										Scores.									
P.W.L.D. For Agt Pts										P.W.L.D. For Agt Pts									
Kingston R.	12	10	2	0	220	62..20	Wigan	9	9	0	0	127	22..18						
Halifax	10	8	2	1	180	38..17	St. Helens	11	9	2	0	175	83..18						
Huddersfield	11	8	2	1	233	106..17	Widnes	12	7	4	1	97	67..15						
Hunslet	12	8	4	0	151	79..16	Oldham	10	6	4	0	127	100..12						
Wakefield T.	10	7	3	0	138	87..14	Warrington	10	6	4	0	81	86..12						
Dewsbury	12	6	5	1	155	128..13	Leigh	12	5	7	0	143	109..10						
Keighley	12	6	5	1	146	170..13	Broughton R.	10	5	5	0	80	87..10						
Hull	10	5	5	0	147	121..10	Rochdale H.	11	5	6	0	93	150..10						
Leeds	10	5	5	0	105	102..10	Salford	10	4	6	0	80	104..8						
Batley	13	5	8	0	107	102..10	Swinton	11	3	7	1	79	128..7						
York	12	4	8	0	94	172..8	Barrow	11	2	8	1	60	132..5						
Bradford	12	1	11	0	46	231..2	Runcorn	12	2	9	1	54	139..5						
Bramley	12	0	12	0	45	348..0													

LEAVES FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

(By THE EDITOR).

Rarely has the League tournament produced so many surprises as on Saturday. Without taking into question the draw at Edinburgh—a result, by the way which utterly confused the many prophets; there were at least half-a-dozen other startling results. Who for instance expected the defeat of Halifax, Wakefield Trinity, Broughton Rangers and Barrow? And few, I warrant, thought that Huddersfield, even with depleted ranks, would fail so badly at Craven Street. But as I have often said before, the distribution of honours is all for the good of the game and tends to encourage the clubs to persevere.

Saturday Representative Games.

The defeats of Huddersfield and Oldham, and the narrow victory of Hunslet will of course revive the old controversial topic, respecting the fixing of representative games on a Saturday, and the taking of leading players when they are required by their clubs for important League games. Oldham, of course, cannot altogether take refuge behind this plaint, for Wigan also suffered by reason of the official calls. And as the season would be somewhat lacking in interest without these breaks in the stern struggle for League supremacy, the taking of prominent players is but after all the natural penalty of greatness. And a glance at this week's League schedule reveals the fact that the positions of the leading teams are all the more interesting because of last Saturday's surprises.

Extension of Colonial Tour.

There is I hear every probability of three more matches of importance being added to the Colonial programme. Arrangements are being made for the playing of a representative Northern League side against the Colonials in Lancashire and Yorkshire, and also another game with the Northern Union. Then should the test match at Birmingham result in a victory for the British team, it will mean that honours are even, and a deciding game fixed for a Northern Union centre would, I think, prove a great attraction.

The Second Test.

Elsewhere will be found a few criticisms of the second test match, played in Edinburgh last Saturday. I found, that taken all round, the rules of the modern game of Rugby football were soon understood, though some Rugby enthusiasts were inclined to criticise the "play the ball" rule. However, the rapid movements, and the quick transference of play from one end of the ground to the other delighted the majority of the spectators, and judging by the applause, the match was greatly appreciated. Had the charge for admission been "saxpence" instead of the "bob," those who know the Edinburgh football enthusiast, declared that the crowd would have numbered 20,000.

The Lancashire County Arrangements.

The Lancashire County committee have agreed to Halifax as the venue of the Yorkshire v. Lancashire match, to be played on Thursday, January 11. Other business of importance for the County committee was the draw for the junior cup semi-finals, the clubs coming from the hat in the following order:—

Cadishhead v. Ryland's Recreation.

Swindley Hornets v. Runcorn White Star.

The matches will be played on the grounds of the first named clubs, on New Years day.

Junior Claims.

The working of the rules which govern the compensation claims of junior clubs, where their players are taken by League or Combination teams, somehow or other invariably occasion controversy. Both the Cadishhead and the Stockton Heath club claimed that a player secured by St. Helens belonged to them. St. Helens, under the circumstances referred the matter to the League management committee, and after due investigation they ruled that the Cadishhead club were entitled to compensation, as it was proved that the player in question had originally been registered with them.

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	Points.
AUSTRALASIANS v. WARRINGTON.....	
OLDHAM v. COVENTRY	
BRADFORD v. ROCHDALE HORNETS	

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Notes and Notions.

(By A. S. M.)

NO all my readers I heartily extend my sincere wishes for a happy and merry Christmas. Let it be merry and bright. To the followers of football, the holiday matches are, of course, additional entertainments, and as such are looked forward to with expectations of pleasure. To the players it is a time of hard work. I should imagine they are only too pleased when their extra and arduous duties are over. True they reap additional revenue at these times, but still one can have too much of a good thing. Those players who have recently been figuring in representative matches, will no doubt feel the effects of the holiday games more severely. And it speaks well for their physical condition that they are able to withstand such a call upon their resources.

The International Law Again.

Another interesting point has arisen in respect to the above law which is now well known and understood. The case in question concerns the Hull club and a player named Schofield. I believe the preliminary details of the case have been previously commented upon, but it will perhaps be as well to refresh ones memory. It appears this player was playing Rugby Union football in England, when the Hull club "spotted" him and signed him on. It however, then transpired that he was a New Zealander, and as such, according to the present transfer law, was eligible to play with Hull with the permission of the New Zealand (N.U.) authorities, or at least the Hull club desired to have his eligibility made clear.

Transfer Fee Required.

They cabled to the Dominion and received a reply that permission would be granted subject to a fee, the amount of which is immaterial so far as we are concerned. The Hull club thereupon laid the full case before the parent body for their consideration. They have no intention or desire to avoid payment of the fee, but they were of opinion that the circumstances surrounding the question were rather outside the true meaning and spirit of the transfer law referred to. Schofield did not come to this country purposely to play football. As a matter of fact he is here on a business appoint-

ment, and when same is completed he will return to his own country. But having played Rugby football out there, he naturally turned to the game here.

The Union's Decision.

The case was rather a delicate one, but the Union committee were of opinion that the New Zealand authorities were hardly justified in asking for a fee in face of the circumstances, and gave Hull permission to play him on condition they do not offer any objection to his transfer upon his return home. The law was framed—as often explained—to prevent if possible players emigrating from the Colonies to join "home" clubs, and thus weaken the constitution of the Colonial ranks. Now if Schofield plays Northern Union football here, he will on his return—if he continues to play football—of necessity play our game. Thus he will be an acquisition to the New Zealand body.

Yorkshire Superiority.

Much speculation is often evinced about the relative scoring propensities of the Lancashire teams, in comparison with their friendly rivals of the Broadacre county. I find upon totalling up the scoring columns of the two County Leagues, as they stand at present, that 150 games have been played in the Yorkshire chart, and the scores for total over 1,700 points, which gives an average per match of 11.76, whereas in Lancashire 130 games have been brought to a conclusion with an aggregate of 9.23. It is rather a difficult matter to adjudge, as taking the above figures it certainly points to a Yorkshire advantage. Yet on the other hand, if you take the individual scores against in the Lancashire table of the last three clubs, one finds a considerable difference in favour of the Lancashire clubs. This would lead one to the conclusion that the defence of the weaker clubs in the County Palatine is stronger than that of the corresponding Yorkshire clubs. This may account for the greater scoring average, and it may not. I am afraid it is an open question, and to my mind the most satisfactory way to arrive at a fair conclusion is to wait until the end of the season, and compare the scores of the inter-county League games.

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SCORES AT A GLANCE.

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P. A. MCGUE.

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OLDHAM F.C. OFFICIAL PROGRAMME.

OLDHAM V. LEIGH,

- AT -

Watersheddings, Oldham,

Saturday, December 23rd, 1911.

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AT WATERSHEDDINGS, 2-45 PROMPT.

Oldham v. Hull Kingston Rovers.

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OLDHAM v. BRADFORD

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OLDHAM v. LEIGH.

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- 2—G. W. SMITH Capt.
- 3—SID DEAN
- 4—EVAN DAVIES
- 5—T. J. WILLIAMS
- 6—W. DIXON
- 7—LOMAS
- 8—FERGUSON
- 9—A. E. AVERY
- 10—W. BIGGS
- 11—A. SMITH
- 12—W. B. JARDINE
- 13—J. WRIGHT
- 14—WILTSHIRE

LEIGH TEAM.

- 1—BOLEWSKI
- 2—JOHNSON, S.
- 3—JOHNSON, T.
- 4—ROBERTS
- 5—DONOHUE
- 6—GANLEY
- 7—WHITTAKER
- 8—GALLOP
- 9—LOWE
- 10—CARTWRIGHT
- 11—DAVIES
- 12—WOOD
- 13—BARTON

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Impressions of the Tourists.

No. 13—P. A. McCUE, Newtown.

(By OBSERVER.)

PATRICK McCUE on the hard grounds of Australia is regarded as one of the speediest forwards playing the game. And as he is possessed of fine physique, he should in the ordinary phases of forward play, hold his own both in the ruck and in the open.

He invariably takes the second row in the scrummage, and perhaps on this account his doings are less noticeable than are the movements of those so-called scrummagers who reserve all their energy for the open rushes.

Weight and Pace.

But Pat McCue holds firm ideas on forwards and forward play. He thinks that a big man can have pace, and that legitimate work can be done in the ruck, and in the open.

He has no hesitation in saying that the first duty of a forward should be to obtain possession. Every player should prefer to see the other man chasing him to the reverse condition, and if the forward does his duty in the scrummage, then McCue is convinced that the best interests of his side is served.

When the famous "Wallaby" combination went over to the Northern Union adherents in Sydney, Pat McCue probably had more to do with this desirable coup on the part of the New South

Wales League than any other. And he tells some charming stories of the mysteries which surrounded those negotiations. When the secret leaked out, there were commands to appear before the Rugby Union, but McCue and his colleagues had the matter well in hand, and the secession, whilst it established the League, had disastrous results for the Union.

Can hold their own.

He is vice-captain of the present team, and though he regrets the fact that they have not brought a hooker, he is of the opinion that in the party are half-a-dozen players, who, well blended together, could more than hold their own with English scrummagers.

McCue secured his representative cap for New South Wales in 1907, and in the following season played for Australia against New Zealand and the Anglo-Welsh team.

Then in 1908 he was selected for the "Wallaby" tour, and visited England and America. Last season he was prevented from making more than one appearance against the British team, but he played in the memorable match for the Metropolis, when British and New South Wales players were ordered off for rough play.

This season he played against Queensland and New Zealand. Is 6 feet high, and weighs 14 stones, 6 lbs.

	Points		Points
A	Rochdale Hornets	F	Keighley
	Australasians		Hunslet
B	Swinton	G	Bradford
	Wigan		Wakefield
C	Broughton	H	Huddersfield
	Hull		Halifax
D	Warrington	J	Kingston Rovers
	Barrow		Salford
E	Runcorn	K	Liverpool
	St. Helens		Oldham Athletic

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... JEPHSON'S TRY...

(By FRED ARNOLD.)

CHRISTMAS Eve in Watlington was damp and dismal. But the weather like modern Rugby football, has vastly altered, and the good, old-fashioned time, so dearly beloved by those who only regard the festive period as seasonable, when it is accompanied by frost or snow, were bemoaning the fact that it would be a "soft" Christmas.

Rain had fallen persistently for several days, and the usual Saturday fixture of the Watlington Rovers, on the previous day, had from the official point of view, been put down as a financial failure.

And any club treasurer will tell you that bad weather during the Christmas and New Years holiday, oftentimes means all the difference between a loss and a profit when the season's report comes to be presented. But there was yet expectations, for on the morrow—Christmas day, the team to appear at Watlington would be Townside Hornets.

Now every man in the two towns, who professed adherence to the Rugby code, thought their football ambition ungratified, unless they had taken part in this great contest for the football supremacy of the two townships. It had been so for many years past, but latterly Watlington, like other successful Rugby centres, had in their efforts to secure a football team worthy of the old traditions, gone outside the boundary for the playing members of the side.

Many of the old supporters did not take kindly to the new order of things, but even they admitted that the club must be kept to the front. If the local supply was not equal to the demand, then, declared the officials, we must go outside for our players. Watlington cannot be content with a second-rate side, even though local players might be coached on in time. And as the reserve funds of the club were ample, players of repute from far away Colonies were attracted to Watlington.

But I am digressing from my story. This damp and dismal Christmas Eve, found one individual in Watlington as happy as in the days of long ago, when he welcomed the advent of Christmas

because of its association with the mysterious personage known as Father Christmas. The joys of the morrow were then great, but the pleasures, or perhaps the thoughts of the coming Christmas day, were to Harry Jephson, even more anticipated than those of his boyhood. About an hour before my story opens, Harry had received a communication from his club secretary, that he must hold himself in readiness to play in the important game on the morrow. The crack Watlington right wing three-quarter had sustained an injury to his ankle the day before, and there was a doubt as to his fitness for the game with Townside Hornets. And Harry Jephson was the right wing of the reserve team—a steady and clever lad, and a great favourite with those, who, on principle, held high opinions of the local talent of Watlington.

In fact, some of these advocates of home bred material, often argued that had Harry come to Watlington from Wales, he would have been hailed as the star player of the team. But he was a local, and the locals must perforce be content to play in the Combination side. Jephson and several of his enthusiastic colleagues were naturally disappointed with the trend of events, but they were loyal to the club and persevered in their training in expectations that their day would come soon.

They were all anxious to secure first team honours, and if there was to be any choice, one and all would prefer the game against the Hornets.

Imagine then the feelings of young Jephson, when he received the official letter which opened out possibilities for the morrow. He was too excited for words, and though the hour was somewhat late for Watlington, Harry had to hurry round and shew the notice to his chum and playing colleague Bert Schofield, the captain of the reserves.

Bert, to his credit, was pleased that the talents of his chum had at last been recognised, and he promised that should Harry be wanted, he would, with the others, be at the match, to give him the customary encouragement. And with

Jephson's Try.—(continued.)

this Harry had perforce to return home, and to bed, where he dreamt, one must admit of goals and tries, which the Watlington wing scored against Townside.

He was down long before the postman arrived on Christmas morning, but there was nothing from the club, and Harry began to think that after all his aspirations were to be nipped in the bud. He looked terribly glum and had almost accepted the inevitable, when looking down the road he espied the first team trainer coming along.

"Morning, Harry, and many of 'em," genially shouted the official. "You will be wanted this afternoon, so don't stuff yourself with turkey and plum pudding. Everything in moderation is my motto, and turkey and pudding all right in their time, are of no use when the kick-off against Townside is at 2-30."

"Why," responded Harry, "am I to play?"

"That's about the mark my lad, and I wish you luck and a couple of tries. Be down by quarter to two, and I'll give you a good rub down."

And with this the trainer departed, leaving Harry, figuratively, standing on his head. Harry's mother, naturally, was pleased, but like mothers, grumbled because Harry declared he must have his dinner at twelve. The usual hour was one. But when after a short walk, Harry returned home he found his dinner ready, and about one-thirty Harry left for the ground.

The morning had opened fine, but the rains of the previous days would have made the "going" heavy, and Harry's only regret was that, for his first display with seniors, the turf should not be firm and more suitable to his style of play. But he hoped for the best.

The comparatively fine afternoon brought together the usual big "Derby" day crowd, and Harry felt somewhat ill at ease when he came on the field with his team. He received a particularly encouraging reception from the strong body of reserve team supporters, and as he took up his position he felt that he must play up to reputation.

The usual preliminaries were gone through and Harry for some time was neglected. The ball invariably went to the other wing, but he had to reply once or twice, and his neat punts were all that were required. But the Townside full-back had noticed that Harry was a bit nervous, and determined on the first occasion that arose, he would give Harry a handful.

And at last the opportunity came. A long high punt from Walker, the opposing full-back, came across in Harry's direction. The formidable Walker, the moment he kicked had followed up, and Harry seeing the ponderous person approaching, felt ill at ease. He sighted the ball all right, but somehow or other in taking it, he slipped.

It was only a slight hesitation, but that fraction of a second was enough for Walker, who rushed into Harry, snatched up the ball, and was away before Harry could recover himself.

The return had looked so simple that Harry's centre colleague had not gone to his support, and the only obstacle to Walker's progress was the Watlington full-back. But this player had to cross from the other side, and to the consternation of Jephson, his mistake enabled Walker to score a simple try. And the terrible fact about it was that the scorer was the full back.

Jephson wanted the ground to open just then. His friends were dumbfounded and the critics declared that class must tell. These lads were all right with their own lot, but when they came to play with class they failed.

But no game is over until the whistle blows. Walker was so delighted with his burst through that he overlooked the fact that a place near the posts would have meant a goal. He touched down in the corner, and when the place kick was taken it proved a failure. But Townside were three up.

The story of the match would take long to tell, for spectators declared that never in the history of the club, had finer tackling been witnessed than on that Christmas. Three minutes from time Townside still led by Walker's try,

Jephson's Try.—(Continued)

and they were apparently well established in Watlington's half.

And then Walker made his great mistake of the match. He tried his old trick again and punted short to Jephson. But Harry was prepared; he allowed the full-back to come on, and then smartly taking the ball, he side-stepped and was away like a flash. Now Harry could run, and his wing opponent on the other side was just that fraction of a second too late, which had brought disaster in the earlier period.

It was all done in less time than it takes to tell the story. Harry was as cool as a proverbial cucumber, and made straight for the goal posts. It was a grand try, and as the position was simple his captain placed the goal. Time was then called, with Watlington winners by five points to three, and naturally, Harry was the hero of the day. In fact they will tell you to-day at Watlington about Jephson's try.

Test Match Scraps—(continued).

"The movements developed with lightning speed, and, in combination, the obvious was frequently the thing that was not done. A favourite dodge was to miss a man in passing, and the manner in which the players supported each other was very noticeable. In running the players often crashed into opponents instead of trying to get round them."—"Evening News," Edinburgh.

Referees—(continued).

Lancashire and Yorkshire Combination—Christmas Day.

Dewsbury 'A' v. Wakefield T. 'A' (11 a.m.)—H. Redfern (Huddersfield).
Featherstone R. v. Purston W. H.—D. Longbottom (Halifax).

December 26th.

Dewsbury 'A' v. Batley 'A.'—(11 a.m.)—D. Longbottom (Halifax).
Hunslet 'A' v. Leeds 'A.'—A. Brown (Wakefield).
Wakefield T. 'A' v. Huddersfield 'A.'—C. Peel (Bradford).

Australasian Tour.**LIST OF FIXTURES.**

OPPONENTS.	GROUND.	COLONIAL SCORES.			OPPONENTS' SCORES.		
		Goals.	Tries.	Points.	Goals.	Tries.	Points.
1911.							
Sep. 23—Midland & Southern Players	Coventry.....	1	6	20	1	3	11
" 24—Yorkshire County...	Bramhall Lane...	3	9	33	2	3	13
" 30—Broughton Rangers	Broughton.....	3	4	18	1	2	8
Oct. 2.—Lancashire County	Blackburn.....	5	5	25	3	2	12
" 7—Wales.....	Ebbw Vale.....	5	6	28	4	4	20
" 11—Widnes.....	Widnes.....	4	5	23	0	0	0
" 14—St. Helens.....	St. Helens.....	2	4	16	1	1	5
" 18—England.....	Fulham.....	1	3	11	0	2	6
" 21—Hunslet.....	Hunslet.....	0	1	3	0	1	3
" 25—Northern League...	Everton.....	2	4	16	0	1	3
" 28—Wigan.....	Wigan.....	1	0	2	2	1	7
Nov. 1—Swinton.....	Swinton.....	5	6	28	3	1	9
" 4—Hull.....	Hull.....	4	6	26	2	1	8
" 8—Test Match.....	Newcastle.....	2	5	19	2	2	10
" 11—Oldham.....	Oldham.....	1	2	8	4	2	14
" 15—Leigh.....	Leigh.....	2	3	13	3	2	12
" 18—Wakefield Trinity...	Wakefield.....	3	6	24	2	2	10
" 22—Cumberl'd County..	Maryport.....	1	1	5	1		2
" 25—Barrow.....	Barrow.....	7	10	44	1	2	8
" 29—Runcorn.....	Runcorn.....	4	5	23	2	1	7
Dec. 2—Huddersfield.....	Huddersfield.....	2	1	7	4	5	23
" 6—England.....	Trent Bridge.....	0	1	3	1	1	5
" 9—Salford.....	Salford.....	0	2	6	0	1	3
" 13—York.....	York.....	2	4	16	1	2	8
" 16—Test Match.....	Edinburgh.....	1	3	11	1	3	11
" 20—Wales and West.....	Bristol.....	4	5	23	0	1	3
" 23—Rochdale Hornets...	Rochdale.....						
" 26—Halifax.....	Halifax.....						
" 30—Warrington.....	Warrington.....						
1912.							
Jan. 1—Test Match.....	Birmingham.....						
" 6—Leeds.....	Leeds.....						
" 13—Kingston Rovers....	Hull.....						

The Smoker's Match.**SWAN VESTAS****Refuse all Imitations.**

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Answers to Correspondents.

T.L. (Widnes).—You are wrong. If the referee had allowed a try and then turned round to find the touch flag up, he has no option but to order a scrummage at the place indicated by the touch judge. The Union gave a clear ruling on this issue during season 1905-9.

DOUBTFUL (Warrington).—The Rugby Union scoring is a try, three points, a goal from a try (in which case the try shall not count) five points; a dropped goal, four points; and a goal from a mark or a penalty, three points.

H.K. (Wakefield).—In season 1903-4 Wakefield were in the second division. Their record was 32 matches played, 27 won, 4 lost, 1 drawn, 387 points for and 57 against. The League points numbered 55, the next best being St. Helens and Holbeck, with 49 points.

TIBBY (Rochdale).—We cannot altogether follow you. In the match at Sydney between Messenger and Lomas the contest was described as "the goal-kicking championship of the world." Lomas, of course won, but at Brisbane, Brackenreg, of Queensland, beat both Messenger and Lomas.

A.B.C. (Oldham).—You probably mean the case last season, in respect to the match between Hull Kingston Rovers and Merthyr Tydvil. A Carmichael, the Rovers' captain, on that afternoon, kicked 15 goals. It was through some error returned first as 14, but we are under the impression that the correct official score of the match, was 15 goals, 14 tries, 72 points.

ENQUIRER (Halifax).—The Colonials take 70 per cent. of the gross receipts in club matches, and 60 per cent of the gross in representative matches. (b) each player receives whilst on tour £2 per week, from the New South Wales League. (c) C. H. M'Kivatt is the captain. (d) George Gillett is the player who came to England with the amateur "All Blacks." (e) Messenger was selected, but could not make the journey. (f) The end of January we think. Anything more? Information respecting the tourists will no doubt be willingly supplied to you, if you write to Mr. J. Quinlan, Gordon Lodge, Southport, but we should advise you to be diplomatic in your requests.

WILLIE (Barrow).—It is a rule and is not at the option of the side commencing play.

J.H.L. (Salford).—The correct decision is a five yards scrummage.

TEST MATCH SCRAPS.

"As the crowd was dispersing one noticed many local Rugby celebrities, and all spoke in admiration of the cleverness of the men engaged on both sides. The method of scoring, despite its apparent simplicity, seemed to have caused trouble, and many at the end were dubious as to which side had won."

"There was agreement that the line-out was necessary to the circumstances of our club game, but the operation of "the play the ball" rule was favourably commented on. The player held, got up and put the ball down in front of him, and either side played it, and the rule worked smoothly and efficiently."—"Evening News," Edinburgh.

"Play was very fast, and it was extraordinary how quickly the scene of operations was shifted from end to end."

"It was interesting to note the effect of a man having to be allowed up on being tackled. One would imagine there would be a difficulty about the matter, but it was the simplest thing in the world. The man on the ground was allowed to get up and place the ball on the ground, and then it was scrummaged off or kicked away, either by the rising man or those waiting round about him. It certainly did away with any hacking of the man in possession and lying on the ground."—"Evening Dispatch," Edinburgh.

"Considering the pace it was remarkable to note the sprightliness of the players, for it was a hard game, and knocks were plentiful, but interruptions for "repairs" were less frequent than in one of our ordinary club games. In addition to Wood, the only man who was "laid out" was his vis-a-vis, Hallett, and he resumed straight away."—"Evening News," Edinburgh.

"In a very few minutes England had scored, and before many more matters were level again. To one accustomed to our leisurely methods there was something bewildering in the pace at which the game proceeded. One observed the difference in putting the ball in the scrum, and one admired the readiness with which all the players handled, backs and forwards alike."

(Continued on page 12).

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Referee's List.

The following is a list of officials appointed for next week's matches.

Monday, December 25th.

Batley v. Leeds.—B. Ennion (Wigan); S. Askwith (Wakefield), H. G. Roebuck (Huddersfield).

Hull v. Huddersfield.—J. C. Lumley (Leeds); F. Wilson (York), H. Adams (Dewsbury).

Hunslet v. Halifax.—H. Whiteley (Wakefield), P. Hardy (Huddersfield).

Leigh v. Warrington.—F. Renton (Hunslet); T. Foulkes (St. Helens), F. Ratcliffe (Swinton).

Oldham v. Hull, K.R.—W. W. Taylor (Hunslet); S. Longden (Swinton), T. Valentine (Salford).

Rochdale H. v. Bradford.—G. F. Dickenson (Halifax); H. Ogden (Oldham), W. Manwaring (Salford).

Salford v. Broughton Rangers.—R. Robinson (Bradford); J. A. Blackburn (Leigh), A. Johnson (Rochdale).

St. Helens v. Widnes.—W. K. Hirst (Dewsbury); H. Ball (Wigan), A. Jones (Warrington).

Wakefield T. v. Dewsbury.—W. McCutcheon (Oldham); T. Wilkinson (Hunslet), C. E. Heydon (Halifax).

Wigan v. Barrow.—R. H. Jackson (St. Helens); F. Turner (Warrington), F. Crabtree (Rochdale).

Tuesday, December 26th.

Batley v. Dewsbury.—T. W. Whiteley (Wakefield); W. Emmott (Leeds), C. E. Heydon (Halifax).

Barrow v. Keighley.—J. C. Lumley (Leeds); J. R. Robinson (Ulverston), J. A. Barrow (Preston).

Broughton R. v. Rochdale H.—W. Edmundson (Bradford); R. Jones (Widwood (Halifax).

Huddersfield v. Wakefield T.—B. Ennion (Wigan); A. Loyne (Leeds), J. Greenes, J. F. Hutchins (Oldham).

Hull K.R. v. Hull.—R. Robinson (Bradford); F. R. Wilson (York), G. Kilvington (Leeds).

Leeds v. Hunslet.—A. Hestford (Broughton); H. J. Roebuck (Huddersfield), R. L. Smith (Bradford).

Oldham v. Bradford.—T. Walsh (Hunslet); A. Edwards (Broughton), F. Crabtree (Rochdale).

Salford v. Swinton.—W. W. Taylor (Hunslet); H. Ogden (Oldham), J. Jones (Wigan).

St. Helens v. Wigan.—C. Platt, (Swinton) H. Farmer (Runcorn), A. Lee (Leigh).

Warrington v. Coventry.—R. H. Jackson (St. Helens); W. Manwaring (Salford), F. Ratcliffe (Swinton).

Widnes v. Runcorn.—F. Renton (Hunslet); T. Foulkes (St. Helens), H. Ball (Wigan).

York v. Leigh.—W. McCutcheon (Oldham); T. Wainwright (Leeds), D. Fitzgerald (Batley).

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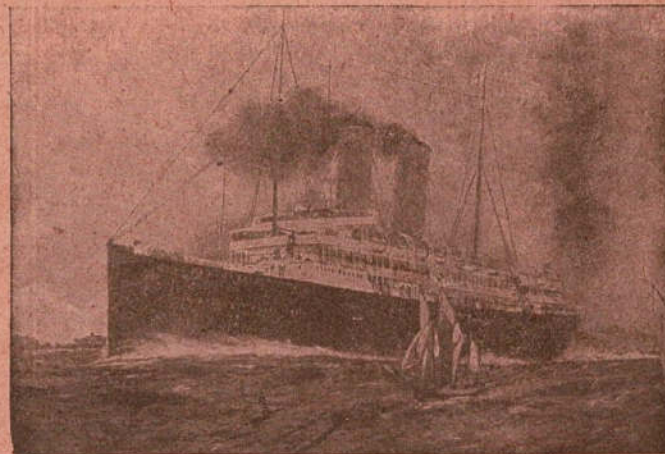
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