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**FOOTBALL NOTES.**

SATURDAY'S GAMES.

(By "Referee.")

The surface at Rugby Park was looking and feeling in splendid order, the drain-ploughing just finished leaving it in a first-class state. The atmosphere was mild; the sun favoured neither side and a fast, exciting game was seen between Banks—Law and Service.

Banks—Law 8, v. Public Service 6.

(Blue and Black.) (Black.)

Colours got into stride almost from the kick-off, and an excellent movement initiated by Dykes sent Stead out to pass to St. George with great precision; the last named went the full safe distance and sent high to Gilmour, who stopped the ball off his chin, and at top transferred to Prain who grounded after a weak Black check. Banks, 3; Service, nil. Give and take play followed with a marked absence of diving and tackling among the forwards on each side, Holz, full for Service, being lucky in stopping a Banks rush in the last stretch. Gilmour was doing much defence, but he failed to take one from Fortune, and Stead just forced. He was given the benefit of the doubt. McDonald made a good run through several Colours, his turn and buttock putting the wind up some players. Below-knee tackling was not seen, and lone-Dykes relieving on one occasion with the work. Forward Sprout was playing a hard spoiling game well supported by Lang-bien and Broughton. The combined forwards Pryde, Kirkland, Knox and De Lary were battling well, and the forwards appeared evenly matched. McDonald was going on his own and making his high tacklers sore. Gilmour put in a cross-kick but it was low, a mark relieving. J. Dalglis was playing his usual game, letting the ball out with judgment, but the centre was playing his first match and delaying in the transfer with no-score results. Cameron checked Stead hard and cleanly. Service had the majority of attack, but scoring failed. During the reaction Rae ran strongly and not being well tackled shook up the defence. Some weak kicking by Law brought Service into position from a mark, and McDonald got a pass and ran straight and strong along the line, untagged by high tackling. Service, 3; Banks, 3.

When the ball was returned to play, it hung in the middle of the field, and a Combined was penalised for taking a pass off-side. The punt brought Service into attack, and a weak kick by a Law wing was marked in good position but the kick failed, Fortune again having no luck. Banks and Law had the better of the play in the first spell and looked like winning comfortably as their backs were briskest and speedier than those of their opponents. Three all was the score at half-time.

The second spell opened with Banks and Law facing west, and they almost immediately ran into attack when Gilmour passed beautifully to Prain who scored in good position, Dykes goal. Banks and Law, 8; Service, 3. Yet the bottom dog plugged in, and the forward play and the tackling in places were a sight to see, Service blocking by hard, deadly impact the attempt of Combined to get their smart backs into motion. Numerous spells for minor injuries occurred, lady supporters and cavaliers in the big stand applauding each resuscitated hero to his heart's content. The Black forwards were carrying every scrum and frequently pushing the Blue-Blacks all over the field, out clever defence and loose heavy forwards stemmed the tide again and again, handed backs went on with their selfish only defence pass seen in the game, Prain cleverly clearing from ten yards out to the middle flag. The effort was applauded generously from the stand. Pryde, Knox and Broughton, were grafting like one o'clock, and their dribbles were hard to stop, though the Banks and Law's backs nearly all did good work at times on ground defence, except when fast men booted at a ball instead of picking it up. Fortune made one excellent check of a deadly rush. But the plugging of the Blacks was to be rewarded and McDonald smashed all opposition and scored his second try. The kicker again had no luck. Banks, 8; Service, 6. The game surged up and down with the Black forwards slightly better than the others, but no further score came to either side, so Banks and Law, 8; Public Service, 6; was the final. The winners have done well on

two Saturday's, and their meeting with Union on a dry day will be watched by their big crowd of supporters.

BLUFF, 6; v. UNION, 3.

This game ended late, the light holding well. Cockroft kicked off for Union and the returns saw the ball out at half-way. At the first line Budd and another Bluffite broke away, the Union backs going down well. The play went straight into a battle of forwards, and Union were beaten at their own game, although each team was at full strength, Bluff scored in the first fifteen minutes from a forward scramble, and got their second try about ten minutes afterwards, the backs on one side all handling. The referee appeared to be blocked, so Union's appeals for two forward passes were not heeded. Still, Bluff were unlucky in not being given a try before, as it was quite clear. On three different occasions Union got Bluff's free-kicks, and once Bluff got Union's. The Union forwards didn't get into it, imitating their captain's strategic wait for opportunities. In the second spell Union placed a penalty, Stapley making a sure kick from a fairly difficult angle, Cockroft's three attempts not being successful. The game was a series of scrambles and was not good to look at. Bluff will be a big proposition on their own midden even for a team with backs. The ground was in capital order; it has been changed in position and the bog has been cut out. Good for you, Bluff!

**THE KIA-ORA CALL.**

CHARM OF ENGLISH GIRLS FOR COLONIALS.

TORQUAY THE NEW ZEALANDERS HONEYMOON CENTRE.

Come, pretty maid, with me to Timbuctoo,

Oh! come where skies are always azure blue

And in that sunny land

We'll wander hand in hand—

Come, pretty maid with me to Timbuctoo.

It is quite possible that the above lines are as old as the hills. It is equally possible that I haven't got them quite right. I did make a grab for my note book and pencil to get them properly, but was so absorbed with what going on around me that I failed in the attempt and have to rely on my memory. Timbuctoo, they used to teach us at school, was a little mining village in California. That may be but there must certainly be another place of the same name in New Zealand. That song must be a New Zealand love song. I refuse to believe otherwise.

It all came about in a singular way. I had been sent down to Torquay to find out why it is that the New Zealanders are taking home with them wives from this country in such large numbers. The New Zealand force was the second smallest Colonial contingent, which was not surprising, seeing that we have several cities in this country with larger populations than the whole of that colony can scrape together. The size of their fighting force comparatively, was big, though they did not exceed one division—but a division second to none.

Notwithstanding the fact that the New Zealanders were only one division strong, more of them have been married in England than any of the other overseas troops. They are taking back wives by the ship load. At this moment there are said to be no less than fifteen hundred New Zealand honeymoon couples waiting at Torquay for their Blighty boat, and scattered over England a matter of seven thousand of them are said to be impatiently looking forward to the day when they can take home their brides to introduce to parents the latter have never seen.

**AUDIENCE OF HONEYMOONERS.**

All this is very interesting, and it was with the idea of finding out what was the special interest of the New Zealanders in the British girl, or vice versa, that I journeyed to Torquay. Arriving in the evening, I strolled into the pavilion, where, curiously enough the New Zealand band was performing. The main part of the audience consisted of the honeymoon couples, and when the Kiwi Quartette sang the little number I have quoted I thought the secret was out.

The vocalists laughed heartily as they sang, everybody smiled in different ways. The happy bridegrooms had a guilty expression. They consulted their programmes or reached over the seats for their hats. The newly-wed wives blushed slightly, and gave the impression that they had somewhere heard the burden of the story before. And I began to wonder whether

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I had not already found the solution to the mystery. Had those quiet looking colonials with hats pinched up at the crowns and a streak of red or blue around it, been "telling the tale?" From long experience I know they can do it.

Then on second thoughts, it seemed that after all I had only got an idea of the possible tactics of the offensive, and that the real reason which caused the outbreak of hostilities was as far off as ever. Accordingly I buttonholed quite a number of the interested parties and heard their opinions of the situation.

In passing it might be interesting to note that in the majority of cases the type of young woman who has married the New Zealanders struck me. They are bright, pleasant, healthy, sensible looking girls. There are very few of the "fluffy" or super-fascinating sort. The men, too, are obviously steady, agreeable, and intelligent fellows, and there seems no reason to believe other than that most of the matches will prove very happy ones.

One of the men—who confessed that he was not married—seemed rather brutal about the New Zealand girls, and I am sure they would have a word to say to the contrary. When I asked him whether there was a big majority of young men in the Antipodes, he replied in the negative. There were plenty of girls in New Zealand, he said, but he did not wonder that the fellows would not marry them. They were too stuck-up, they wanted, when married, a life of ease and pleasure, with no work, plenty of amusement, and no end of fine clothes. "I wouldn't marry one of them," he said, and added, "and the blokes are sensible to get 'hitched up' before they go back."

**DIFFERENT VIEW OF HOME.**

"Sour grapes," remarked his companion drawing me gently on one side. Then he told me his view on the matter. He explained that in this country the girls are entirely different from those at home. Here, he said, girls are brought up in a different way. They are taught at home that the home is their proper sphere, and that although a lot of them are getting their livings in shops and offices and factories, their great mission in life is to keep a home of their own, and to regard that and motherhood as the greatest thing in life.

"Down there," he explained, "things are not the same. The girls do not take the same interest in home life. They are not as sociable as the British girls. Here the young women were always 'chummy' with male acquaintances, and eventually that often ripened into something closer than mere platonic friendship. Provided a man is respectable the British girls don't expect to rule his every movement. I like your British girls. But then, perhaps I am prejudiced, for," he concluded, with a broad grin, "you see, I married one of them."

A number of other New Zealanders expressed similar opinions. Then I asked one of the wives the other side of the question. She summed it all up in a few words. The girls were not carried away with the pretty uniform, or tales of possible wealth or a desire to travel and conquer fresh worlds; she did not marry her husband because he was a New Zealander, but simply because he was "her Bill."

As "Bill" took her arm and escorted her down the broad staircase he obviously winked at me, and very softly he started to whistle: "When love creeps in your heart." I thought I was beginning to understand. And New Zealand? New Zealand is waiting to say "Kai-ora"—welcome—to them all.

In the thirteenth century a law had to be passed in Britain compelling the people to cut down all trees and shrubs for a distance of 200 feet from all roads running between market towns, so that robbers could not hide and waylay travellers.

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