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FOOTBALL NOTES.

SATURDAY'S GAMES.

BLUFF (6) v. PUBLIC SERVICE (6).

Bluff brought up a heavy team of forwards and backs to meet the most consistent side in the League Banner games, and on the play deserved at least a draw. Service had two substitutes in the vanguard, a risky patching against Bluff's physique in that part of their attack. Shortly after the beginning of the play Service moved McDonald out to centre, O'Callaghan replacing him at second five. Bluff were playing one or two old-timers whose weight and experience despite their evident lack of a gallop, were of sterling service to their side. In the first spell Service used their backs to advantage, the forwards playing a fast, open game with the result that two tries were scored by combined passing rushes of forwards and backs. It cannot be said that Bluff used the weight at their disposal in the first spell, and, even when they got the ball, the Service forwards by breaking quickly usually managed to smother Bluff passing before the open field had been reached. Service played well to their backs, but the passing was not up to their usual standard, though at times flashes of clean, well-timed transferring were exhibited. The first try of Service opened out on McDonald achieving his cut-in. Being supported by Stobo, the venture was brought to success by Fortune who scored wide. Stobo initiated the next movement when he booted the ball almost out of Bluff half's hands to dribble on to gathering position and then to pass to Sproat who fed Saunders towards the corner. Service 6, Bluff nil.

In the second spell Bluff used their weight better, playing an extra forward. They might have been expected to brush opposition aside, but Service pack proved their condition by stemming the tide of rainbow scrummers the Black backs generally defending well. Service allowed Bluff to make it a forward game, not realising that by opening up the play they would have more chance of ruck feed, long lines being the defence against heavy packing scrummers. Bluff's forward advantage in this spell gave them the ball in the set-scums, and allowed them to check Service feed in the loose, Service backs being smothered before they got the ball clear of the forward drives. No doubt this explained some of the rather wild transfers of the defenders. Bluff got their first three from a penalty; the second score came from Budd, whose blossoming-out as a feeder of backs is worthy of repetition in matches to come. His half, Finnerty, being where halves should always be—right behind the ball—received the Budd lob, which he sent out to wing-three Johnson, the result adding to the score the bare three. The game ended Bluff 6, Service 6.

UNION (9) v. BANKS AND LAW (0).

As usual Banks and Law came away smartly, moving into Union's plot but failing, the patches in the raiment being evident at the first attempt to pass. The combined team has been up against fate in casualties, and they were unwise to risk getting Stead permanently injured. When the little condition they possessed had evaporated, their work was nothing like that of the dinky team that was wont to delight the fairer occupants of the stand before their social endeavours had tired them out for strenuous, sustained rugby, and no one watching their futile game on Saturday would think they had scored 43 points in their four matches. Saturday's stock in comparison with Wednesday's has gone down with a flop, few now considering that as a quartette the Saturday teams can compare with the Wednesday ones. Is there any chance of a revival all round in the keenness for training? A few more matches like those of last Saturday will leave the selectors with fewer men to choose from. Union have now 8 shield points, Banks and Law have 4. Union's scoring power did not show up until their opponents were tired of running and more weary of not being kicked into restful lines by their backs. Then the bustling Union forward Stewart got the first three wide, Union 3. Came along all the Union forwards with Smith to finish a magnificent rush. Union 6. The third try was opened by Cockroft fooling an anticipating back, D. McDonald later securing from the checking scrum to score and bring the total to, Union 9, Banks and Law nil. Union looked as if they could play another 45 minutes.

WORK FOR SOLDIERS.

The British Empire, for the first time in its history, had been engaged in a national war, said General Sir William Birdwood at the New Zealand Club luncheon and the war had been fought by civilians in the garb of soldiers. New Zealand's need now was soldiers in the garb of civilians to undertake the work of development. His appeal to the soldiers was to shake off war apathy, to throw themselves energetically into the work before them, and to discountenance all attempts on the part of anybody to live on the reputation of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Ninety-nine and a half per cent. of the men were determined to work. The remaining half per cent. probably had not worked before the war, and the proper treatment for a man in that group was to take him by the scruff of the neck, and make him work. He should not be allowed to blacken the faces of good soldiers.

The General mentioned that he had paid a visit to Trentham Hospital, where about 350 injured and maimed men were still receiving treatment. These men were determined to work and the community ought to encourage them and help them. The worst thing that could happen to a maimed or partially disabled man was to let his mind go fallow. It might seem brutal to tell a maimed man to get to work, but nobody could do the men a greater kindness than to assist them to work up to their capacity. Idleness was the worst thing that could happen to them. He desired, in this connection, to say a word to employers. Every war left a certain number of men suffering from shell-shock or shaken nerves. The recent war, owing to its severe conditions and the very extensive use of artillery, had affected the nerves of a very large number of men. These men might work well for a month or longer, and then break down temporarily. He would ask employers to be patient and sympathetic. Give the men a dozen chances or more if necessary. The employer should not turn that man down even if patience were taxed to the utmost.

THE DISQUALIFIED.

The following statement, defining those soldiers not entitled to receive war medals and Certificates of Honourable Service has been issued by Defence Headquarters. It is to be borne in mind, however, that the disqualifications mentioned do not prejudice claims made in respect of any services satisfactorily rendered subsequent to an offence for which punishment has been awarded.

The disqualifications are specified in the following categories:—

(A)—Those found guilty by court-martial of desertion or an offence under sections 17 or 18 of the Army Act (fraud, embezzlement, stealing, malingering, wilful self injury, producing or aggravating by means of misconduct, disease or infirmity or delaying cure, or disgraceful misconduct).

(B)—Soldiers who have been discharged with ignominy or expressly on account of misconduct, or on conviction by civil power, or on being sentenced to penal servitude.

(C)—Soldiers who have been convicted by civil power to sentences of six months or more.

(D)—Soldiers who have been returned to New Zealand and discharged with ignominy or expressly on account of misconduct without having actually taken part in military operations against the enemy.

(E)—Soldiers who deliberately evaded service with units by refusing vaccination or inoculation, or who deliberately or by misconduct rendered themselves unfit for active service and were returned to New Zealand and discharged without having actually taken part in military operations against the enemy.

DEMobilISED MEN AND PENSIONS.

The following clause in the annual report of the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association, was adopted by the Dominion executive at its last meeting: "On March 31, all patients in hospital were demobilised, consequently their military pay stopped, and they received a pension in lieu. By this an injustice was done, as totally incapacitated patients received £2 instead of £3 3s per week. The following resolution was sent to the Prime Minister, the chairman of the Repatriation Board, and the Commissioner of Pensions: "That the executive sub-committee is of the opinion that the War Pensions Department should grant a full pension and a supplementary pension to all ex-soldier out-patients, except those for whom the Repatriation Department is prepared to accept responsibility. As the result of the above all totally incapacitated men will receive their pension, plus the supplementary pension, and their case will be examined quarterly."

ARMY AND STAGE.

NEW ZEALAND ACTOR.

REMARKABLE CAREER OF MR SHAYLE GARDNER.

There are many returned soldiers who remember Mr Shayle Gardner, the young New Zealander who has made such rapid progress in the dramatic art in England, and who bids fair to become one of the most popular artists in the Mother Country.

Some interesting details of Mr Gardner appear in the latest number of the "British Australasian" just to hand, from which we cull the following:—

About eight years ago a young New Zealander startled his fellow students at the Academy of Dramatic Art, in Gower street, by carrying off the most of the honours of the year. He won the Lady Gilbert medal for tragedy, the Forbes-Robertson medal for elocution, the fencing prize, and a scholarship tenable for one year. This was Mr Shayle Gardner, who impersonated Nadir Shah, of Persia, in the recent production of "The Sunshine of the World" at the Empire Theatre.

His first professional experience was as understudy to Aubrey Smith on tour, the latter's repertoire including "Marjorie Marries," a comedy by Norman MacKewen, an Australian writer. Then, from walking on in Tree's production of "Joseph and his Brethren," he reached the altitude of appearing as the central figure in a special performance of "Hamlet," before an Educational Congress at the Imperial Institute. A season at the Little Theatre followed, and then he became a member of Mr Philip Carr's company at the Petite Theatre Angles, and afterwards at the Court Theatre, London, in a Shakespearean repertoire. He was in the first production in England of "Damaged Goods," and in the original production of Barrie's one-act play, "Der Tag," at the Coliseum. Subsequently he played one of the leading parts in "The Land of Promise," on a provincial tour.

Rejected three times in England, Mr Gardner enlisted with the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces in the Dominion, rising from the ranks to be captain, serving altogether three and a half years. Ten months before his discharge General Russell appointed him Director of Entertainments, when he had the control of two cinemas and three or four companies, the most notable being "The Kiwis." On his discharge he was cast for one of the principal parts in "The Eyes of Youth," at St. James's Theatre. The actor, in the intervals of stage work, has acted for the movies, one of his characters being Christopher Codrington, in a screen version of Philip Gibbs' novel of the Press World, "The Street of Adventure."

Mr Gardner, who was born in Auckland, went to the Auckland Grammar School, is a grandson of Francis Shayle Gardner, poet and educationalist, and a nephew of the late Dr Boyd Carpenter, who for twenty-seven years was Bishop of Ripon. Mr Gardner has travelled all over the world, and at twenty-eight has seen more of life than many men of sixty.

THE MODERN ANGLER.

I once was wont to think of him as one
Who sat beside the placid river's brim
From rosegate dawn until the day was done,

Since time had no significance for him.
From time to time his line he deftly threw,

But chiefly he was occupied in wishing
For bites, for that is what I used to do
When I went fishing!

But high above the rest I placed the man

Who sought in Thames the shy, elusive trout.

For lo! our life is but a little span,
And there are all too few such beasts about.

Thinking of that brave heart, I almost wept;
His nature must be trustful, sweet,
and winning,

Yet persevering also, since he kept
His minnow spinning!

But now, alas! I find he lolls around,
Within the cushions of an easy chair,
Till hireling watchers on the stream have found

Some mighty speckled giant's weedy lair.

The shrill, insistent clamour of the phone

Will fail to set that sluggard's pulses drumming.

"Confound the trout!" he murmurs with a groan,
"Yes, yes! I'm coming!"

—Touchstone, "Daily Mail."

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