DUEL IN THE SOUTH

Inter-Island Rugby at Invercaraill

NVERCARGILL, which has not seen an inter-island Rugby match for over 20 years, should be amply recompensed by the North v. South match to be played there on Saturday, October 4. Both islands will be represented by their strongest teams and the battle may well be the keenest in a genera-

Interest in this year's match has been greater than usual for two reasons, according to Winston McCarthy, NZBS sports commentator, who is travelling south to cover the match. In the first place, the Ranfurly Shield has been firmly held in the South since 1935. This year, the North Island sent down two of the strongest challenging teams for many years. It was confidently expected that one or other of them would return with the Shield. Both, however, were soundly beaten.

But what is most likely to spur both teams to their maximum effort is another matter altogether. Of the 25 All Blacks who toured Australia this year, 17 were from the North Island and only eight from the South. For the interisland game, therefore, the North Island selectors have been forced to pick their strongest available team to prove that there was nothing parochial in the selec-tion of the All Blacks. The South, on the other hand, is equally anxious to prove that the proportional representation in the New Zealand team should have been reversed.

North Will Have 11 All Blacks

The North has on many past occasions used the inter-island match as a trial game for promising young players, but this year all of their available All Blacks (11 of them) are in the team. The whole of the back-line, with the exception of Cherrington on the wing, is composed of All Blacks, and the only "unknown" in the North Island side is G. King (Poverty Bay), who will be locking the scrum with Frazer. In the absence of Arnold and Thornton, the team is the very strongest that could be selected.

Nor has the South Island indulged in any experimentation. Every player they will field has been tried in big football. The pack is a formidable one and, says McCarthy, will no doubt play the game in the traditional South Island style. The South has pace and experience in its backs, and it might be that the winning of the game will depend on the duel that is to be expected between the two hookers, E. H. Catley, for the North, and J. McRae, and the form of the rival second fiveeighths, Ron Elvidge and Fred Allen.

Full Dominion cover for the game has been ensured by the broadcasting arrangements. The broadcast will be originated by 4YZ, and Stations 1YA, 2YA, 3YA and 4YA will be linked with the Invercargill station for the game.





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