

WHAT'S WRONG WITH N.Z. RUGBY?

DO New Zealanders play Rugby as well as they used to? And if not, where does the fault lie? Sitting by the radio in the dead of night (the dead of winter, too) a couple of years ago, while Winston McCarthy told us how the worst was happening in South Africa, many New Zealanders must have felt that the game was all to pot—unless, their national pride unable to withstand the shock, they put it all down to the way in which the rules were interpreted. The victories against the British Isles team last year gave a lot of uplift, without altogether removing the impression that the standard of play had declined. And though success has smiled on our team in Australia, can we be sure, even now, that we have a clear field ahead? To bring it down to cases: Is Ron Jarden as good as George Hart and Jack Steel were in their day?

Not long ago the NZBS asked a number of men who have been prominent in the game at one time or another this century—nearly all of them former All Blacks—to answer the question, What's wrong with New Zealand Rugby? What they had to say listeners will hear in a series of 13 talks which will start from all Commercial stations at 9.0 p.m. on Saturday, August 4.

Speakers who will be heard in this series include J. W. Stead, vice-captain of the 1905-06 All Blacks, who represented New Zealand also in 1903, 1904 and 1908; George Aitken, All Black captain in the first two tests against the Springboks in 1921; Teddy Roberts, All Black captain in the third test the same year, who played for New Zealand also in 1913, 1914 and 1920; Bill Dalley, 1924-26-28-29 All Black; Frank Kilby, 1928-32-34 All Black; Dave Lindsay, 1928 All Black; "Beau" Cottrell, 1929-30-31-32 All Black; Hughie McLean, 1930-32-34-35 All Black; Ron Bush, who played for New Zealand in 1931; and Norman McKenzie, who built a series of match-winning Hawke's Bay teams in the late 1920's.

Winston McCarthy, fresh from his tour with the 1951 All Blacks in Australia, will wind up the series.

All the important questions that have been exercising the minds of the critics over the last few years will be discussed by one or another of these speakers. Have we, for instance, so surrounded the game with rules that the player can't move freely without fear of infringement? Is the game, therefore, not as enjoyable as it used to be? Has the way the game is played become more important—to rulemakers, professional critics, spectators, and (reluctantly?) players—than playing a game that can be enjoyed and winning if you can?

Scrumming methods have been a subject of lively controversy in recent years. The famous, unbeaten, never-to-be-forgotten 1924 All Blacks had a fine forward pack, but were said to be relatively poor in the scrum, and Mark Nicholls wrote after the 1928 South African tour—things had gone badly in the scrum again—that something must be done immediately to put our scrums in order if we wanted to retain our place among the Rugby playing countries of the world. Have changes in the scrum

been satisfactory? How have they affected the standard of back play?

It is sometimes said that the fundamentals of the game like running, tackling, dribbling, passing and handling are not learned as thoroughly as they were in the past. Should something more be done with schoolboys or players in the lower grades of club Rugby? Or is it possible, on the other hand, that the school-boy plays too much nowadays and that his interest in the game is not what it was by the time he reaches senior standard?



These are a few of the controversial topics that will be considered in *What's Wrong With New Zealand Rugby?*

Opening speakers in this series will be Teddy Roberts, followed by George Aitken, from 12B; Norman McKenzie, followed by J. W. Stead, from 22B; Bill Dalley, followed by Hughie McLean, from 32B; Dave Lindsay, followed by Frank Kilby, from 42B; and Ron Bush, followed by "Beau" Cottrell, from 22A. The talks will be heard each Saturday at 9.0 p.m.



AS THEY WERE (from left), Frank Kilby, Bill Dalley, Dave Lindsay. AS HE IS (at top), N. A. McKenzie.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Broadcast Series from National Stations

MOST New Zealanders take the sort of Public Service we have—day-to-day government by permanent officials—very much for granted. They don't realise how few countries have used this sort of public service and that it's still the normal thing in most states for public officials to be changed when the government changes. Professor R. S. Parker, Professor of Political Science at Victoria University College, will say something about this in the first of a series of talks to be broadcast soon on

the variety and complexity of the New Zealand Public Service and the way in which it works.

About 15 per cent of our bread-winners are directly employed by the central government today, and they handle about one-third of our national income. It's little wonder that with such a vast organisation few citizens know very much about its life and work; but because it is so big and important

we can't afford to be too ignorant about it. That is why these broadcasts have been arranged.

In one way or another a New Zealand family in one day may have contact with anything up to a dozen Public Servants who supply services the family really needs. In the talk to follow Professor Parker's, a member of the Public Service Commission, A. H. O'Keefe, will discuss the variety of activities in Government departments, in which there are about a thousand distinctly different occupations. He will say something, too, about the growth of Government departments since representative government began in New Zealand.

The Land and Income Tax Department has almost the whole population (children excepted) as its patrons. How it

collects taxes a representative of the department, L. J. Rathgen, will describe in the third talk. Listeners will probably find that the department emerges from this a little more human than they had thought it before. They may even take a less unfriendly view of income tax inspectors once these are seen as guardians of the honest taxpayer against deficits which the dishonest may cause.

The fourth talk, by an economist, about Budgetary control, will refer particularly to the work of the Treasury as accountant for the Public Service at large, and another talk will describe the work of a Government trading department.

The relative merits of State and private enterprise remain a live issue in New Zealand. A discussion on this subject, led on the one side by S. T. Barnett, Under-Secretary of Justice, and on the other by William Machin, of Christchurch, will follow the talks. It will specially consider the fields, such as marketing, transport and insurance, in which there is competition between the State and private enterprise.

Throughout the series listeners will be asked to send in questions about the policy and practice of the Public Service as they affect the general public. These questions will be classified, and the series will wind up with two or more panels, representative of various Government departments, in answers to questions.

These talks and discussions on the work of the Public Service will be heard weekly from all YA and YZ stations at 9.15 p.m. on Fridays, starting on August 3.



Spencer Digby photograph
PROFESSOR R. S. PARKER