

I believe it to be in Ulster's interest to come in, and that the force of community over a period of years would prove compelling, but at present an Irish settlement is only possible if Ulster is left alone. My strong advice to you is to leave her alone and concentrate on a constitution for the remaining counties, and by a successful running of the Irish State eventually bring Ulster in: Ireland is travelling the same painful road as South Africa did, but with wisdom and moderation she is destined to achieve the success and freedom which will lead inevitably to unity.

"As to that freedom you are called on to choose between two alternatives. You say that a Republic is the true expression of national self-determination. The British Prime Minister made an offer of the other form of freedom on a Dominion status, which is working with complete success in other parts of the British League. What is good for these ought to be good enough for Ireland, and for Irishmen to say to the world that they will not be satisfied with a Dominion status would be to alienate that sympathy which has been the mainstay of the Irish cause.

"The Prime Minister offers a complete Dominion status to 26 counties, subject to certain strategic safeguards which you are asked to agree to voluntarily as a free Dominion, and which we South Africans agreed to. To my mind such an offer by the Prime Minister, who, unlike his predecessor, is in position to deliver the goods, is an event of unique importance. It is far more than was offered to the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. They accepted a far less generous offer, and from it improved their position, until South Africa became happy and contented and a completely free country. I hope you will become a sister Dominion in the great circle of equal States, who will stand beside you should you need help and protect your new rights as if they were their own; who would view any invasion or violation of that status as if it were their own, and who would give you the most effective guarantees against any arbitrary interference by the British Government.

"I am satisfied that from a constitutional point of view a settlement of the Irish question is now possible and practicable. It is the human difficulty which remains, and it is now mostly a human problem. It will be the gravest reflection on our statesmanship if this auspicious moment should be allowed to pass.

"You and your friends have a unique opportunity, such as Parnell and his predecessors never had to secure a lasting peace. I pray God you may be wisely guided, and that peace will be concluded before tempers change and another generation of strife ensues."

OUR SPORTS SUMMARY

[To ensure insertion without delay, notes intended for this page should reach us not later than Tuesday morning of each week.]

AUCKLAND.

The lightweight football competition was decided last Saturday, when Vermont Street defeated Ellerslie by 17 to nil. They have gone through unbeaten; they drew with Ellerslie first round. This is their second year of winning. The A's played Richmond Road in the final. Several hundreds turned up to see the game and they were treated to a good exhibition of Rugby. Richmond played well and got dangerously near the green line several times, but the combination, packing, scrum work, and tackling of Vermont proved too good, and they left the field winners by 21-3 (a goal). This is the Marist schools' 5th successive win in the A grade. In 1918, 1920, 1921, they have aggregated just on 1000 points, their own line uncrossed.

After their mid-year holidays the Sacred Heart College A team played their first match of the second round of the Auckland secondary schools competition against Grammar School B team. Adopting tactics to suit the muddy state of the ground, the college lads gave their heavy opponents no respite, compiling 19 points—5 tries, 2 of which were converted—to a converted try. The college forwards gave a fine exhibition of dribbling, line-out work, and deadly

tackling. The backs handled the greasy ball splendidly, and kicked with marked judgment, while their stopping of forward rushes greatly delighted their supporters. Tries for the college were scored by Griffin, Reid, Kalaugher, White, and O'Connor. Lanigan converted two of the tries.

WELLINGTON.

In the junior Rugby football, Marist Brothers' School team (Newtown) defeated Kilbirnie Public School by 21 points to nil. The team is a sturdy one and the lads give promise of developing into fine players. Teachers and others speak well of the good combination and fine passing of the backs.

Soccer also holds a prominent place and the senior team almost holds the school championship cup in its grasp. The final game will be played next week against Marist Brothers (Thorndon), and keen interest is being shown by the lads. Last Friday the team defeated Newtown Public School by 7 goals to nil. The eighth grade school Soccer team has again won the championship cup, this being the fifth year in succession that the team has secured the honor. This team, captained by Master N. Wilson, was not defeated once during the season. It played 12 matches, lost none, and drew none, securing 24 points. The total goals scored were 40, while only 4 goals were scored against the team during the season. The splendid combination of the forwards shown in their passing resulted in the lads winning all their games. This grade also won the six-a-side cup.

CHRISTCHURCH.

The annual seven-a-side Rugby football tournament for schoolboys under the auspices of the Canterbury Public Schools' Association was held at the Polo Grounds on Saturday. 138 teams competed and very interesting games were witnessed. The Marist Brothers' boys carried off four of the six events, so that of the 42 medals to be awarded they take 28. The following were the finals:—Open grade—Marists (D. Galvin, F. Rose, P. Burns, E. Carney, W. O'Loughlin, W. McCambridge, J. Wilson), 3 points; Waltham School, nil. Under 14—Marists (J. Mannix, J. Morrissey, W. Sweeney, H. Pearce, V. McTeague, B. Mora, J. O'Connor), 6 points; Crest School, nil. Under 13—Marists (V. Mannix, C. Hobbs, B. Turner, J. Scully, R. Sutherland, A. Campbell, R. Noonan), 5 points; East Christchurch School, nil. Under 12—Marists (L. Pearce, A. O'Connor, N. Stokes, G. Williams, K. Armstrong, J. Greenlees, M. George), 5 points; Waimanui School, nil. The light-weight team during the week drew with Elmwood, neither side scoring.

The school Soccer team is in the lead for the competition.

On Saturday, August 6, the football competitions engaged in by the Marist Brothers' Old Boys resulted as follows:—Juniors v. Albion—The latter team defaulted. Third grade—Marists beat Varsity by 9 to 3. Fifth grade—Marists defeated Christ's College by default. Last Saturday the juniors, who were leading by half a point, were beaten by Merivale—13 to 5. This places Merivale and Lyttelton level for first place, with Marists half a point behind. In the event of a Lyttelton win they play off with the Greens. Third grade beat St. Bede's by 11 to 3. Fourth grade were beaten by Merivale—6 to 3. B Company Cadets defaulted to Marist fifth grade.

At basket-ball the girls from the Sacred Heart Convent beat Gilby's College by 36 to 8.

INVERCARGILL.

The Marist Old Boys-Athletic Football Club are to be congratulated on the fact that they have succeeded in keeping four teams in the field during the season now closing (writes our own correspondent). The seniors did fairly well, and have always been a tough proposition, even for the strongest teams. They now stand fourth on the list. The lower grades have been up against too much weight but have fought gamely on, and will have bettered their positions before the season closes. The club intends holding a euchre and social early next month. The boys also contemplate holding a smoke concert for all grades as a wind-up of the season.

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