a total of 5,000. This is significant: 5,000 people expressed directly their dishes to have broadcastings of sports ontinued.

The letters themselves are interesting, as they bring out some points of view that should be carefully studied by the Rugby Union. The union are members of the sporting public as are those who are corresponding. As representative of a great body of the people the feelings of that body must be considered or their representation is only a matter of office-not of true responsibility to the public.

In general, the letters came from four classes:

1. Those who are isolated or detain-

ed, but who wish to attend. 2. The maimed, sick, and disabled in and out of hospitals.

3/ Officials of other sports bodies.

Those whose enthusiasm has been whetted by the broadcasts and who intend to witness the sport when the opportunity occurs. This class includes many ladies.

A few extracts from the letters reselves.

The isolated: "Perhaps if some of the delegates living three miles along a clay road in the back-blocks had to depend on wireless for their entertainmetn they might reconsider their decision."—"Would suggest you send some of the delegates up here and we will

## Matthew Passion St. Music

## To be Broadcast from Christchurch

ON Good Friday evening, at 7.30, 3YA will relay from Christchurch Anglican Cathedral the presentation of "The St. Matthew Passion," Bach's famous work. This will be sung by the full cathedral choir. Dr. J. C. Bradshaw will be musical director and organist.

Bach has put into his musical setting of the Passion of Jesus a wealth poignant meaning, and yet he treats the story so simply that there is nothing any listener cannot understand-nothing of which he cannot at once feel the power and the truth. The composer aims at making every hearer a participant in the events his music depicts.

The narrative is unfolded in solos and choruses. Every now and again are interpolated "chorales"—verses of Lutheran hymns, commenting on the story, and these are intended to represent the emotions and reflections of us listeners as we picture ourselves among the crowds looking on at the events described.

The protagonists of the drama are: the Evangelist (tenor), who gives the connecting narrative; and Jesus (whose words are sung by a bass). The voice of Peter is also heard in a few sentences. There are solo portions, commenting on the story sung by a soprano, an alto, a tenor, and a bass.

## ceived will tell the story for them-

miles of this distance is mud road, mail back here on the day of the Test matches.'

The maimed, sick, and disabled: "I find a job for them in the bush this was unfortunate enough in stopping winter."—"Do you think the price of more than my share from a Fritz mathe best seat would have held me from chine-gun, and am now disabled. I canthe contest-No."-"We live 17 miles not attend sports to any extent, so back from the nearest township and six these broadcasts are a God-send."

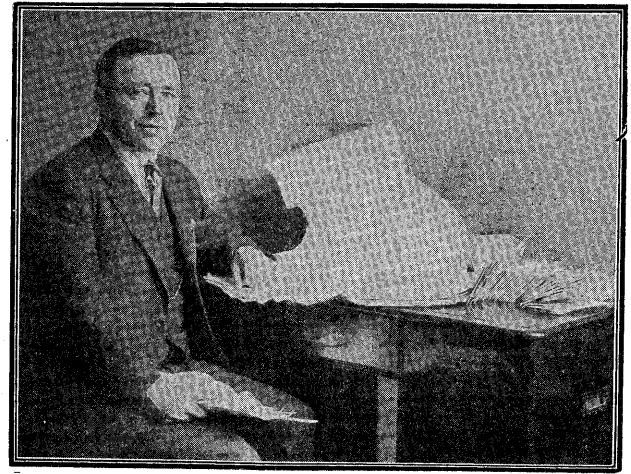
"I have been a keen supporter of the weekly. Wireless is the only thing game for over 40 years, as a player, secrethat makes life endurable. I should tary, captain and president of my club; like to plant a few of the R.U. officials referee, member, and vice president of the Bush Districts Union, sole selector for same, delegate to referees' conference, and the union's representative at the memorable send-off to the 1905 All Blacks in the Wellington Town Hall. I have made considerable financial sacrifice in the interests of the game generally. It now seems hard that, being unable to at-

tend matches through spinal injury, I am to be denied the pleasure of listening-in."

From Wanganui Hospital an appreciation, and "these broadcasts are heartily appreciated," signed by "Ward Three." A delegate of the "Old Men" at Park Island Home, Napier: "Our ages range from 60 to 90; we have little chance of seeing a match. Your efforts to have all sport broadcast is a fine idea." Thirty-two members of the Upper Sanatorium, Cashmere Hills, Christchurch, sign an appreciation-"Surely the R.U. do not wish to penalise the Were we not sick radio would not keep us away," and so the tone of the remaining letters from hospitals in all parts of the country. In almost every case radio is only a means of appeasing a great desire to be present. Other appeals come from individual sufferers who could not attend. There was a note from a player who was included in the team that toured New South Wales in 1884, one from a blind sufferer whose only contact with the outside world was radio. The chairman of an institute for the blind wrote on behalf of those under his care.

The tone of the letters from other union officials and interested listeners was one of indignation and surprise that their delegates should take upon themselves the unwarranted power to deprive them of the broadcast. "Any party of men holding temporary pointments as an executive should remember that they are there to do anything in their power to further the sport and promote interest in it. The council are merely representative and

(Concluded on page 25.)



Mr. George Aldridge, secretary of the New Zealand Boxing Council, who described the Sarron-Donovan fight through 2YA. Mr. Aldridge appealed to listeners to support sporting broadcasts in view of the possible ban upon Rugby Test matches, and has received hundreds of letters endorsing the value and interest of sporting descriptions "over the air."

—S. F. Andrew, phote.