

Rugby Matches will be Broadcast

Decision Reached by Union

YOU know that a certain amount of controversy has gone on," said Mr. S. S. Dean, in introducing the subject. He pointed out that the New Zealand Rugby Union would not lose any money by the broadcasting of matches, but the loss would be suffered by the various unions. For instance, when a match, say, in Dunedin was broadcast it would be found that the "sports" in other places would stop at home and listen in. (Cries of "Yes" and "No"). The Management Committee, after mature consideration, he said, thought that as the Broadcasting company was so solicitous of the listeners-in, and being a commercial concern, it should do something towards having the privilege.

The company, Mr. Dean considered, might just as reasonably come along to any theatre, boxing match, etc., and ask to broadcast without giving anything for it. Why should they pick on the Rugby Union alone? he asked. He was not opposed to broadcasting, in fact, liked it very much indeed. But he thought the broadcasting people were asking for something which was not altogether reasonable. If they wanted the facilities they should pay something for them. At the present time they were making improvements and spending plenty of money.

If they made a donation to the Rugby Union the money would be used for the provision of sets in charitable institutions, orphanages, and hospitals. "We know the people of New Zealand want the broadcasting," he said, "but we say the Broadcasting Company is a commercial concern and should pay for the benefit it receives."

A reply from the broadcasting Company intimated that the company could not meet the union in the matter of making a donation, since it claimed to provide certain benefits so far as deservicing institutions were concerned.

Up With the Times.

MR. H. H. Sterling (Hawke's Bay) claimed that the broadcasting business was a very vital one from the

point of view of the Rugby code. He moved:

"(a) That it be decided that the matches with the British team under the jurisdiction of this union be broadcast, and (b) that it be a recommendation to the provincial unions that their matches with the British team be also broadcast." In the means of communication with people unable to see matches, said Mr. Sterling, there had been a radical change, brought about by broadcasting. It would not be keeping pace with the times if the union did not recognise the change taking place and place the people in the position of being able to get details of matches per medium of the new order.

It was a duty of the Rugby Union to give service to the people. That note had been struck by Mr. Dean during some remarks earlier in the meeting, and it might well be kept in mind in considering the question of broadcasting. Mr. Sterling did not think there was any doubt that, financially and from the point of view of the good of the game generally, the British tour was going to be of great advantage to New Zealand Rugby Unions.

Disadvantages Outweighed.

IN the event of matches being broadcast some people might stop away and listen in, but he claimed that the advantages to be gained from broadcasting easily outweighed the disadvantages.

There could be no question of sincerity arising so far as the Broadcasting Company was concerned. The argument that they should pay seemed to him to be a good deal more plausible than sound.

Facilities were provided for the reporting of matches, but the union never inquired into the profits of those concerns about the matches.

He pointed out that the Broadcasting Company was faced with considerable expense.

As to the question of a donation for the hospitals, Mr. Sterling said that the disinterested onlooker might well doubt the union's sincerity in the matter. The amount of the donation when distributed over the

Dominion would, in any case, be negligible. "Let us give service to the people by broadcasting the matches which they are unable to see," Mr. Sterling concluded. "The quantity of service we can give, the prestige to be gained, and the satisfaction given to the people will be so great as to outweigh any disadvantages in having attendances at other matches slightly affected, even if that should eventuate."

In seconding the motion, Mr. M. Davitt (Waikato) said that the people who

An important decision was made at the last meeting of the delegates to the N.Z. Rugby Union when they announced that the matches to be played in connection with the English tour were to be broadcast. This marked the conclusion of a much-debated subject, and it is felt that the decision meets with wide approval.

could not see at least a Test were entitled to receive the best consideration that could be given by the Rugby Union.

Charging a Fee.

AN amendment was moved by Mr. S. F. Wilson (Canterbury), "That this meeting approves of the action of the Management Committee in charging the Broadcasting Company a fee." He pointed out, in the course of his remarks, that the British team was not being brought out for the benefit of the listeners-in, and he was absolutely certain that the broadcasting of the games was going to have a serious effect upon the "gates" of the various unions.

At the suggestion of Mr. J. Prendeville (Wellington) the amendment

was altered to read as follows:—"That this meeting of delegates is in sympathy with the listeners-in in their desire to have the matches broadcast, but approves the action of the Management Committee in requiring some consideration for the privilege and leaves the arrangement of the details in the hands of the Management Committee." He considered that the Broadcasting Company was no more rendering a service than any other commercial concern. He did not see why it should use Rugby without paying some consideration for the privilege. While people would go to the matches in their particular centres, they would stay at home and listen-in when the matches were played elsewhere. In Wellington's case he ventured to say that when the first three Tests were being played it would mean a drop in the gate takings of anything up to £200. He urged upon the minor unions to consider what the effect would be upon their income. One of the biggest inducements for the listeners-in in taking out licences was the fact that they could get sports news over the air, but he did not see why the company was concerned only with Rugby, and not racing, boxing, etc.

Voices: "Boxing is broadcast."

One way of dealing with the position, Mr. Prendeville suggested, was to give the Broadcasting Company the privilege of sending special representatives to the matches to get full details which could be given over the air between the close of the match and 6 o'clock. He certainly thought that if broadcasting were permitted, the company should pay a fee.

Mr. J. McLeod (Taranaki) submitted that the vital question was what effect it would have on the public if the Broadcasting Company was refused permission to broadcast the matches.

"We cannot afford to have a psychological knockback on this matter. I don't think we are concerned with the Broadcasting Company, but with the people as a whole," he said.

(Continued on page 32.)

Noted Choir Broadcasts

Scene in 2YA main studio when Saint Mary of the Angels Choir, under the conductorship of Signor A. P. Truda, were performing on Monday night. The Orchestra, which accompanied them, are seen in the background. As depicted, the choir are about to perform for the first time in New Zealand "Tota Pulchra."

—L. Wallace, photo.

