

## The Laws of Rugby

WE were given a very clear exposition of some of the rules governing our national sport by Mr. Dan McKenzie, speaking from 2YA on Friday. Dealing principally with the present international interpretation of the rule governing play by a man on the ground, the speaker made it quite clear that while the rule showed plainly that a player may rarely be penalised for playing the ball (or, if opportunity offers, for tackling an opposing player) while on the ground, still he personally could see neither rhyme nor reason in affording the added license.

Mr. McKenzie's digressions on the subject of play of the past were most entertaining. Players of the past century must have been made of very stern material and to those of the present generation, the fact that a law had to be introduced protecting a player lying on the ball from hacking must come as something of a shock.

On one occasion, before the law was enforced, such a player had to have his clothes cut from him at the close of the match, so badly hacked about was he! Nor was the care in providing adequate and suitable headgear prompted by custom or fashion—the idea behind the use of caps, mufflers and helmets was purely one of protection. Apparently the hair provided a very useful medium by which to collar an opponent!

Followers of Rugby must find these talks by such a well known authority on the game as Mr. McKenzie of tremendous benefit. I particularly liked the speaker's reminder that a referee is absolutely within his rights in making use of the "Advantage Rule." Thus, to save unnecessary stoppages in play and to guard against the enforcement of a penalty reacting against the non-offenders, referees should not be over hasty in blowing the whistle when an infringement takes place. As Mr. McKenzie showed, from an instance quoted in a recent senior club match, a team may easily be robbed of the chance of a try by being compelled to take a penalty kick when a continuation of, say, a perfect passing movement among the backs would have been infinitely more valuable. Would it not be a good suggestion to circulate members of the Referees' Association with copies of valuable talks like this one?

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## The VOICE of MICHAEL By "CRITIC"

### Origins of Music

QUITE one of the most entertaining lectures of the week was that provided by Mr. J. Crossley Clitheroe from 4YA on Tuesday. It was scheduled as a "final" talk of this series, and listeners will certainly be sorry that the end has been reached. I found some little difficulty on this particular night in excluding 2YA, who were entertaining a man with a voice like a megaphone. This lecturer was apparently trying to reach the ears of his listeners without mechanical aid at all, and, I should think, very nearly succeeded.

I believe I am right in quoting Mr. Clitheroe as crediting the 16th Century with showing the greatest advance in the world of music. It was at this period that native speech was first substituted for the former international language of music—Latin. With the encouragement provided by the House of Tudor for art and enterprise, music and harmony moved forward rapidly.

The feeling of the period is best described by the couplet:

*"Since singing is so good a thing,  
I wish all men would learn to sing."*

To a very large measure Shakespeare's wish was fulfilled, and ability to take part in an impromptu madrigal became quite the thing. In fact, inability to do so was a sign of lack of education.

A comprehensive and enlightening talk was brought to a conclusion by two illustrations of the madrigal, which is unaccompanied part-singing. Only one thing marred my enjoyment of both songs, and that was the distant but persistent boom from 2YA which, to the accompaniment of "Adieu Sweet Amarillis" and many "Fa-la-las" informed the world at large that . . . Too much watery something or other in the animals' diet . . . only if the cow is fed above the standard . . . came through the winter in good condition. Not quite the theme for a perfect madrigal!

### The World's Creditor

THE subject for the international talk of the week chosen by Dr. Scholefield, speaking from 2YA on Wednesday, was one of peculiar and particular interest at the present time—"America as the World's Creditor." The whole world is vitally interested in President Hoover's suggestion that the repayment of international war debts be waived

for a year. The offer could only emanate from the U.S.A., since she is the creditor nation of the world and, while not wishing to depreciate the generous offer, one cannot help wondering as to the present state of trade in the U.S.A., since all hints and suggestions of a general debt cancellation have, in past years, fallen upon very deaf ears.

### International Programmes

THE International Programmes which have proved so popular at 2YA, 1YA, and 4YA, are to go on the air from 3YA. The first will be broadcast on Thursday, July 30.

Dr. Scholefield spent the time at his disposal in quoting figures; he apologised at the conclusion for being dull. I do not think anyone will consider such an apology necessary. Just now, when we are all to some extent feeling the pinching of the shoe, a clear statement of the world's balance-sheet cannot fail to be enthralling.

To quote Dr. Scholefield, therefore, it would seem that with the prompt approval of Great Britain, Italy, Germany, and most of the other more important late-belligerents, to the Hoover proposal, it should be possible for it to be put into effect almost immediately. Unfortunately, France is once more proving a stumbling block. Analysis of the situation shows that, after the U.S.A., France stands to lose most under the suggestion, mainly because the huge reparations payments, of which she is the recipient from Germany, would be cut off.

Some of the figures quoted were truly of a staggering nature. War time is certainly not the time for over caution in the matter of loans, but when we consider that Great Britain, from 1914 to 1917 financed the Allies to the tune of over 900 million pounds, of which 500 million went to Russia, and may virtually be written off accordingly; when in addition Great Britain's debt to the U.S.A., for money borrowed, principally on account of her Allies, was funded at 922 millions, payable over a period of 60 years; finally, when it is realised that before the end of the war Great Britain had been milched by three of her principal allies alone to the tune of 2400 millions, much of which must be considered a bad debt; when all these facts are fully considered, is it any wonder that the British taxpayer groans, and thinking people begin to

realise the utter absurdity of adherence to the gold standard when such mammoth international debts may be raised on such an absurd foundation.

## The Iron Industry

I THINK Mr. S. F. Wright, who was to have spoken on the above subject from 1YA on Thursday, will agree that his lecture lost little by being read by the official announcer. In my opinion the talk was a distinct reversion to the high standard set by earlier speakers lecturing under the auspices of the Manufacturers' Association. Just recently these talks have become a trifle dull; some have bordered dangerously near to wireless advertising; others have stressed the slogan "Buy N.Z. Goods," at the expense of an interesting topic.

Mr. Wright definitely entertained us with some illuminating data on the growth of the industry in this Dominion. I think it was in 1916 that the first commercial attempt at making soft grey iron from Taranaki iron sand was made. The production was not a success, and it was soon found that this was no project for a blast furnace. The outfit was sold to and operated by a company who have been turning out large quantities of pig-iron of a satisfactory quality from Nelson.

One of the most sensible reasons advanced in support of buying the local product was that an increase in output would result in room for more apprentices. Under the Apprentice Act the total number of apprentices allowed is fixed in proportion to the number of journeymen. These in turn are naturally dependent on the turnover of the company, so that parents anxious to find an opening for their young sons would do well to remember that a prosperous engineering business means more journeymen and more openings for apprentices.

Shall I be unpopular if I once more suggest the possibility of our primary producers being sacrificed on the altar of our secondary industries?

## Tapu!

CONTINUING his lectures from 3YA on Thursday, Te Ari Pitama was still most entertaining. Among much of interest in his lecture was the explanation of the Maori word "Tapu." The speaker stated that the law of Tapu formed the Mosaic commandments of the Maori.

To quote him . . . "The very mention of this expression (Tapu) gave to the Maori mind a negative thought—Thou Shalt Not." The word forms one more link in the chain of similarity which is to be found in the language of the Maori and that of other nations. While its origin has been lost in oblivion, the interpretation may generally be stated as "sacred." The old Hebrew laws and the Brahminical institutes of Menu and the Tapu of the Maori possess a resemblance indicating common origin. The Sanscrit rendering is of unusual interest—"Ta" to mark; "Pu" to purify. A worthy point made by Te Ari Pitama was that in attempting to understand Maori laws and ceremonies the pakeha must be careful not to judge