

## Referee's List.

The following is a list of the officials Saturday, Dec. 10th.

## NORTHERN LEAGUE.

**Batley v. Huddersfield.**—H. Edmondson; D. Longbottom, T. Walsh.

**Barrow v. Rochdale Hornets.**—A. Hestford; W. Cross, C. Abraham.

**Bradford v. Swinton.**—W. McCutcheon; J. W. Scholes, C. Straiton.

**Ebbw Vale v. Bramley.**—J. F. May; J. Vaughan, W. Lewis.

**Halifax v. Leeds.**—J. W. Whiteley; F. J. Rowlands, H. Adams.

**Hull v. Warrington.**—S. Tillison, F. Wilson, J. W. Mellor.

**Hunslet v. Dewsbury.**—G. Dickenson; C. Peel, C. E. Heydon.

**Merthyr Tydvil v. Keighley.**—B. Ennion; W. Williams, J. G. Anthony.

**Oldham v. St. Helens.**—J. C. Lumley; J. H. Crawshaw, T. Walsh.

**Salford v. Runcorn.**—F. Renton, W. J. Chapman, J. Winstanley.

**Wakefield T. v. Hull K.R.**—A. Smith, W. Emmott, D. Fitzgerald.

**Widnes v. Coventry.**—C. Platt; E. Bennett, J. McGowan.

**Wigan v. Broughton Rangers.**—W. W. Taylor; H. Farmer, F. Turner.

**York v. Leigh.**—G. Moore; S. Mortimer, A. Loynes.

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## YORKSHIRE COMBINATION.

**Dewsbury 'A' v. Hunslet 'A.'**—J. A. Hall.

**Huddersfield 'A' v. Batley 'A.'**—F. W. Tattersall.

**Leeds 'A' v. Halifax 'A.'**—A. Day.

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## LANCASHIRE COMBINATION.

**Broughton R. 'A' v. Wigan 'A.'**—J. E. Smith.

**Runcorn 'A' v. Salford 'A.'**—W. Nevins.

**Swinton 'A' v. Widnes 'A.'**—J. Dutton.

Lest we Forget—*continued.*

British Isles, and should we be accused of over exaltation, we can only refer our doubting critics to the whole-hearted laudatory notices which appeared in the London Press.

**The Natural Sequel.** What was accomplished during that ever memorable tour, is possible during the tour of 1911-12. If the standard of Northern Union football has improved in England, the advance in the Colonies is no less real. Our sons across the seas recognise that our game is one better adapted to their natural

requirements than the old code, and they are not slow to learn their lessons. The men who will next season wage battle with our stalwarts, are players of repute, and many are famous by reason of honours gained both in their own country and in England.

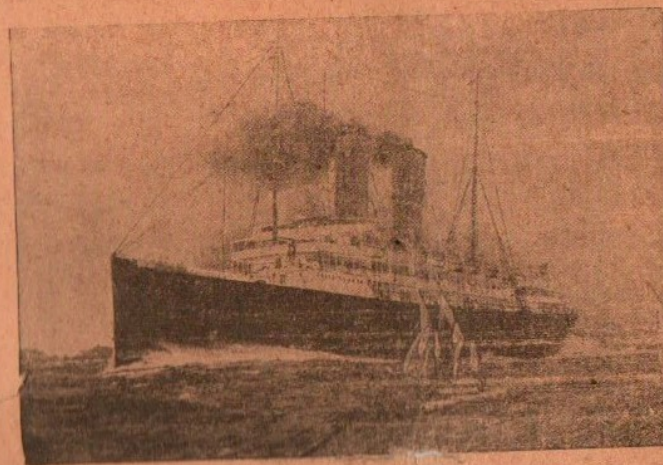
Before us lies the prospects of strenuous contests between the chosen stalwarts of Great Britain and Australasia, and who can estimate the possibilities of a tour, which we feel confident will be historical in the annals of sport. Let us be united, and above all remember our duty to our coming guests.

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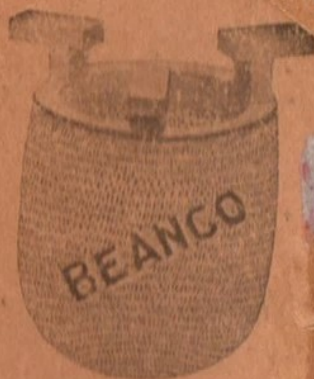
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And Club Official Programme.

No. 15.]

Saturday, Dec. 3rd, 1910.

[One Penny.]

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# THE NORTHERN UNION NEWS.

No. 15.]

Saturday, Dec. 3rd 1910.

[One Penny.]

## LEST WE FORGET!

**Our Surprise.** We learn with surprise that some official representatives of our clubs question the wisdom of the Northern Union in sending to the New South Wales League, an invitation to visit England next season. We say with surprise, after considerable reflection, and we are anxious to make our case plain to the doubting ones.

**Club Guarantees.** Now the main line of argument against the visit being arranged for next season is one of finance. But what are the financial responsibilities of each and every club in this respect? Merely a very small proportion of the cost of the tour, for the Colonials will no doubt accept the old guarantee of £50 for a mid-week match, and £100 for a Saturday fixture. Thus our clubs know their responsibility, and argue as they will, when the possibilities of the tour are taken into consideration, no reasonable man with the least spirit of enterprise would, we think, hesitate to take the risk.

**Our Visitors' Risk.** The risk to us seems all on the side of the visitors. We know the approximate cost of a tour in England, and we know that the guarantee which the New South Wales League will receive from the Northern Union is in itself insufficient by nearly one half, to meet the cost of the visit. If our visitors are prepared to take a risk of £2,000 or £3,000, surely our clubs—assuming a Wednesday and Saturday "gate" only brings half the guarantee—are patriotic enough to accept responsibilities, which, if the worst should happen, can only mean the loss of a few pounds. This then is the case from one point of view. But what of the other?

**A Mere Existence.** Our memories are short, else we should remember the wonderful revival of our fortunes due to the visit of the first Colonial side to England, under Northern Union auspices. During the closing

months of the previous season, Northern Union football was, from a public point of view, a somewhat questionable attraction. There was little interest taken in our doings, and we were apparently in many centres merely existing. Something was necessary to rouse the dormant public. We knew the game had not lost its power to attract, but the fact was plain that our spectators were dwindling away.

**The turn of the Tide.** The tide turned after the arrival of the late A. H. Baskerville and his team. The first game at Bramley attracted those who were prejudiced against our code. They desired to see this "phantom team" who had the courage to come to England and try conclusions with players who openly acknowledged that they were paid for football services. These critics of Rugby professionalism came—many saw the game for the first time, and to their surprise perhaps, found that our players were human. They also found that these Northern Union exponents of Lancashire and Yorkshire played a honest, straightforward, and manly game, and that a Rugby professional could be a gentleman both on and off the field.

**Unexpected Success.** Thus were converts made throughout the whole of the tour. The playing possibilities of our game were quickly seen by the visitors, and some of the most thrilling exhibitions it has ever been our privilege to witness were seen during matches between the "All Blacks" and the Northern Union teams. We even went to London, where the sport loving public of the Metropolis paid over £500 to witness a game between the chosen of the once despised professional Union and the Colonials. And we make bold to say that the thousands of ardent Rugby Unionists who visited Chelsea on that memorable day, did not regret their support. They witnessed an exhibition of the finest outdoor game played in the

(Continued on Page 16.)



## LANCASHIRE LEAGUE.

|                | Scores. |   |   |   | P.W.L.D.ForAg'tPts. |     |    |  |
|----------------|---------|---|---|---|---------------------|-----|----|--|
| Warrington     | 9       | 6 | 1 | 2 | 93                  | 64  | 14 |  |
| Widnes         | 9       | 5 | 3 | 1 | 71                  | 43  | 11 |  |
| Wigan          | 7       | 5 | 2 | 0 | 110                 | 40  | 10 |  |
| Oldham         | 6       | 4 | 1 | 1 | 73                  | 38  | 9  |  |
| Runcorn        | 9       | 4 | 4 | 1 | 73                  | 121 | 9  |  |
| Swinton        | 8       | 4 | 4 | 0 | 86                  | 36  | 8  |  |
| Rochdale H.    | 8       | 4 | 4 | 0 | 103                 | 77  | 8  |  |
| Leigh          | 10      | 4 | 6 | 0 | 84                  | 111 | 8  |  |
| Broughton R's. | 10      | 4 | 6 | 0 | 73                  | 124 | 8  |  |
| St. Helens     | 8       | 3 | 5 | 0 | 107                 | 99  | 6  |  |
| Barrow         | 7       | 2 | 5 | 0 | 54                  | 132 | 4  |  |
| Salford        | 7       | 1 | 5 | 1 | 48                  | 90  | 3  |  |

## YORKSHIRE LEAGUE.

|              | Scores. |   |   |   | P.W.L.D.ForAg'tPts. |     |    |  |
|--------------|---------|---|---|---|---------------------|-----|----|--|
| Dewsbury     | 9       | 7 | 2 | 0 | 120                 | 45  | 14 |  |
| Leeds        | 10      | 7 | 3 | 0 | 149                 | 75  | 14 |  |
| Wakefield    | 7       | 6 | 0 | 1 | 105                 | 32  | 13 |  |
| Kingston R.  | 8       | 5 | 2 | 1 | 159                 | 72  | 11 |  |
| Hunslet      | 8       | 5 | 3 | 0 | 112                 | 75  | 10 |  |
| Halifax      | 8       | 5 | 3 | 0 | 93                  | 64  | 10 |  |
| Keighley     | 10      | 4 | 5 | 1 | 83                  | 133 | 9  |  |
| Bradford     | 10      | 4 | 5 | 1 | 64                  | 110 | 9  |  |
| Hull         | 8       | 3 | 4 | 1 | 64                  | 102 | 7  |  |
| Batley       | 8       | 3 | 5 | 0 | 51                  | 56  | 6  |  |
| Huddersfield | 7       | 2 | 5 | 0 | 52                  | 82  | 4  |  |
| Bramley      | 9       | 1 | 7 | 1 | 47                  | 133 | 3  |  |
| York         | 8       | 0 | 8 | 0 | 44                  | 164 | 0  |  |

## Results and Scorers of Last Saturday's Matches.

## WAKEFELD TRINITY, 12-8.

Tries: Lynch, Simpson.  
Goal: Bennett.

## \*SALFORD, 01-3.

Try: Dai Thomas.

## \*ST. HELENS, 12-8.

Tries: Hill, Flannagan.  
Goal: Turtill.

## \*WIGAN, 12-8.

Tries: Todd, Leytham.  
Goal: Leytham.

## \*BRADFORD, 34-18.

Tries: Griffin (2), Baistow, Schofield.  
Goals: Steward.

## HUNSLET, 22-10.

Tries: Jenkinson, Smales.  
Goals: Place.

## \*RUNCORN, 11-5.

Try: Butterworth. Goal: Jolley.

## \*DEWSBURY, 14-14.

Tries: Sharples, Milner, Rhodes,  
Lightowler. Goal: Walton.

## \*YORK, 23-13.

Tries: Oliver, Boltman, Plimmer.  
Goals: Plimmer.

## \*LEEDS, 15-17.

Tries: Barron (3), Ward, Oliver.  
Goal: Fawcett.

## \*BARROW, 23-13.

Tries: Gifford (2), Taylor.  
Goals: Gifford (2).

## \*HULL K. ROVERS, 46-26.

Tries: Mann, Sandham, Dilcock,  
Moore, Richardson, Thomas.  
Goals: Carmichael (4).

## \*OLDHAM, 03-9.

Tries: McLean, Owens, Dixon.

## \*ROCHDALE HORNETS, 32-12.

Tries: Robinson, Jenkins.  
Goals: Jones (3).

## \*HALIFAX, 11-5.

Try: Davies.  
Goal: Longstaffe.

## WARRINGTON, 01-3.

Try: Dainteth.

## BATLEY, 11-5.

Try: Loosemoore.

Goal: Walter Davies.

## WIDNES, 00-0.

## MERTHYR TYDVIL, 11-5.

Try: Jones. Goal: James.

## \*COVENTRY, 01-3.

Try: Houghton.

## SWINTON, 00-0.

## KEIGHLEY, 11-5.

Try: Watts.  
Goal: Madley.

## EBBW VALE, 01-3.

Try: Treharne.

## HULL, 10-2.

Goal: Sykes.

## BROUGHTON RANGERS, 12-6.

Tries: Ruddick, Gorry.  
Goal: Barlow.

## BRAMLEY, 30-6.

Goals: Land (2), Walker.

## HUDDERSFIELD, 12-8.

Tries: Kitchen, Wagstaff.  
Goal: Grey.

## LEIGH, 01-3.

Try: Neville.

## \*Home Club.

## THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL.

(By the EDITOR)



THE Emergency committee of the Northern Union has occasioned some surprise in the selection of the two sides for the first International of the season. By way of preface I should say that this game will be played on the ground of the Coventry club next Saturday, and given favourable weather, the enterprise of the hard-working Coventry officials should be rewarded. We may all have opinions as to this or that position being filled by a surprise selection, but all the same the twenty-six players chosen to represent their native country, are quite capable of upholding the highest standard of Northern Union football. I will leave it at this.

## The Teams Selected are:—

England.—Clarkson (Hull); Leytham (Wigan), Lomas (Salford), Wagstaff (Huddersfield), Miller (Wigan); Smith (Hunslet), White (Oldham); Jukes (Hunslet), Webster (Leeds), Winstanley (Leigh), Avery (Oldham), Kershaw (Wakefield Trinity), and Tones (Coventry).

Wales.—Jenkins (Ebbw Vale); L. Llewellyn (Ebbw Vale), E. B. Thomas (Hull Kingston Rovers), B. Jenkins (Wigan), Williams (Halifax); Dai Davies (Swinton), J. Thomas (Wigan); Shugars (Warrington), Blackmore (Hull Kingston Rovers), Foley (Ebbw Vale), D. P. Davies (Swinton), Gronow (Huddersfield), and E. Jenkins (Rochdale Hornets).

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## The English Forwards.

It will be seen that twelve of the chosen players are those who made the tour to Australia and New Zealand. In fact all the English forwards with the exception of Tones, are scrummagers who made a great reputation in the Colonies, and I like the English pack. They stand for combination, and some capital forward play should be witnessed at Coventry next Saturday. The half-backs—it will be noted that Fred Smith has been selected in preference to T. H. Newbould—are good, and Tom White, at the present time is giving of his best for Oldham. Centre three-quarter back, curiously enough, is a position in the Northern Union, generally difficult to fill, and the selection of Wagstaff is only in the natural order of things.

## Wagstaff's Opportunity.

The Huddersfield player is at any rate Yorkshire's most polished centre, and in good company I look for sensational play from the youthful Tyke. The other members of the line are tried and trusted exponents, and although the full-back was expected to come from Hull, those naturally disappointed supporters of the Rovers' club should remember that Ellis Clarkson was selected for the corresponding game last season, but was prevented from playing through injury.

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## The Men from Wales.

The Welsh selections are thoroughly consistent with the present form of the players. Like England, the Principality has not an abundant supply of really class centre three-quarter backs, and after Bert Jenkins comes a big gap. But Phil Thomas is doing well at Craven street this season and may be relied upon to support his colleagues. "Chick" Jenkins, who would otherwise have played in the third line, will appear at full-back—a position he filled with credit in several strenuous games during the Australasian tour. A useful man indeed is the Ebbw Vale captain.

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## Clever Backs.

The wing three-quarter backs, particularly Llewellyn, will need some checking should the Welsh scrummagers as they did at Ebbw Vale prove superior in the packs.

Dai Davies, I am told, is playing now as well as of old, and those who remember Swinton's cup year will realize that Wales has a most efficient scrummage half-back. Johnny Thomas will be seen to advantage. Of that I have not the slightest doubt, and as the Welsh forwards are all of International standard, the superior combination of their backs inclines me to think that the visiting Country will secure honours in the first International. But the game should be one well worthy of the teams, and if last season's exhibitions can be reproduced, then the Rugby Unionists of the Midlands will be provided with eighty minutes play, in which the finest points of the Northern Union code will predominate.



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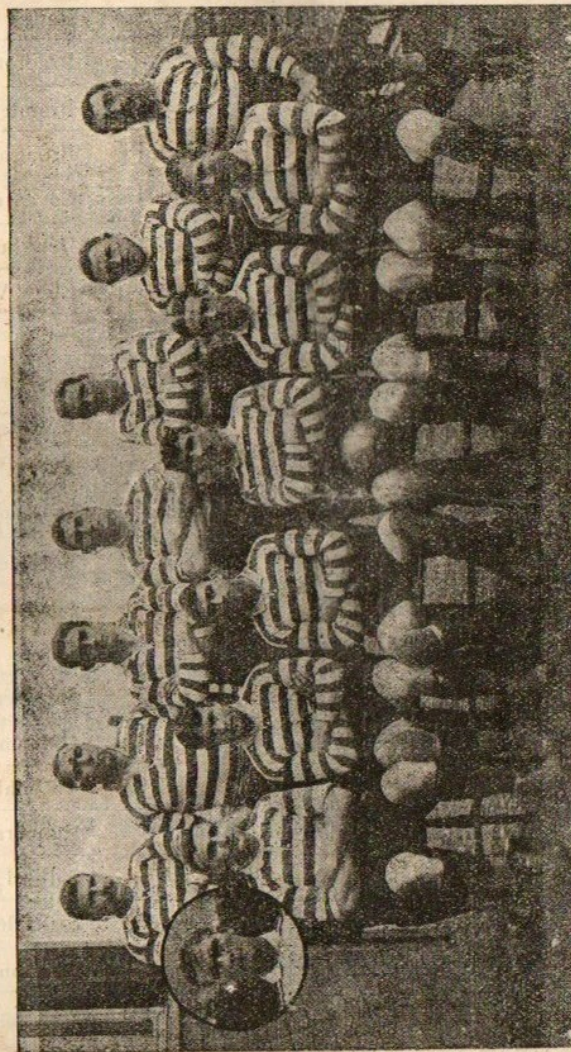


Photo by R. Scott & Co.,  
Dean (Inset) White Avery Jardine A. Smith Helm Wood  
G. W. Smith Cook Llewellyn Ferguson Anlezark  
Tyson Owens  
Manchester.



No. 11,

(By J. H. Houghton.)

I have seen it given scores of times, and in various places in England, and in New Zealand, but this exhibition simply put all others in the shade. I thought that "Bumper" Wright and Billy Trewarthen were contortionists, much above the ordinary, but their exhibitions were feeble in comparison to some of the efforts put forth on this occasion. The

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Referees and other officials desiring copies by post, should forward P.O. for 1/- to the publisher, 10a, Fountain Street, Manchester, who will forward 10 successive weekly issues.

SCORES AT A GLANCE.

[illegible]

For results of HOME Matches read across. For AWAY Matches read downwards. In the latter case the last number is the score of the club whose name figures at the head of the column. Where a — appears it signifies that these clubs do not meet each other.



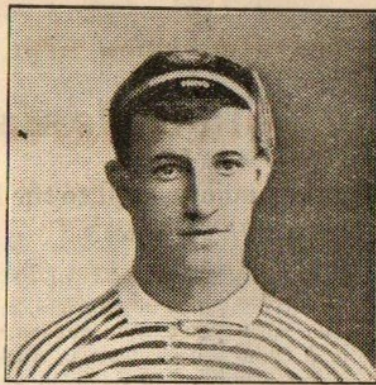


Photo by Fov, 93, Park St., Swinton.

**D. DAVIES, (Swinton Captain.)****OLDHAM v. SWINTON.****OLDHAM TEAM.**

Selected from

- 1—A. E. WOOD
- 2—C. W. SMITH
- 3—C. DEAN.
- 4—C. COOKE
- 5—W. DIXON (Senr.).
- 6—T. McLEAN
- 7—A. E. ANLEZARK
- 8—T. WHITE
- 9—J. FERGUSON (Capt.).
- 10—A. E. AVERY
- 11—A. SMITH
- 12—T. McCABE
- 13—J. WRIGHT
- 14—W. B. JARDINE
- 15—J. OWEN
- 16—T. HELM

Referee—A. Smith (Halifax).

Touch Judges: W. Gregory (Runcorn) and H. Ball (Wigan).

**SWINTON TEAM.**

- E. D. GRIFFITHS, Back.
- T. CARTRELL Right Wing.
- A. VALENTINE, Right Centre.
- J. B. PARKER, Left Centre.
- A. MORRIS, Left Wing.
- DAI DAVIES (Capt.). Scrum Half.
- J. W. FAIRHURST, Outside Half.
- or J. WHARTON, Outside Half.
- J. E. BLEARS, Forward.
- J. BAILEY
- D. B. DAVIES
- DAN DAVIES
- W. PRESTON
- T. J. McVEICH

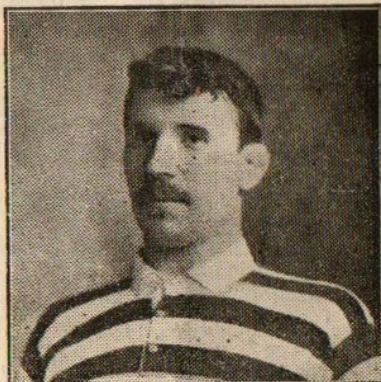


Photo by HAROLD HAIGH, OLDHAM.

**J. FERGUSON (Oldham Captain.)****A Famous Three-quarter Back.****G. W. SMITH, (Oldham).***(By an Occasional Contributor),*

ONE of the most famous players taking part in the Lancashire Cup final at Broughton, this afternoon, is George Smith, a native of New Zealand, who be it noted, despite the fact that he was born in 1872, is still a most effective force in the three-quarter line of one of the leading teams in the Northern Union.

His life story is remarkable, for at the early age of thirteen he left his home in New Zealand, to try for fame and fortune. If the latter ambition has not yet been attained, George Smith can certainly lay claim to the former.

His first endeavour for fortune was as a jockey. He was very fond of horses and the life suited, for steeplechasing to him was a most exciting and fascinating sport. Then he discovered he could run, and he determined to go in for track work.

Training assiduously he was eventually selected to represent Auckland, in the New Zealand championship for the 100 yards, and the 440 yards hurdle. How he succeeded is apparent from the following wonderful record.

100 yards flat championship of New Zealand five times; 120 yards hurdle championship of New Zealand four times; 440 yards hurdle championship five times; 250 yards flat championship once; Australian quarter-mile championship three times; 120 yards hurdle championship of Australia twice, and fell when a certain winner for the third time; 220 yards flat championship of Auckland, and beat Rosengrave; and, last but not least, came to England in 1902 and secured the English hurdle championship of 120 yards at Stamford Bridge, his time for the distance being 16 seconds.

His football career even commenced in his jockey days, for they had a team of boys connected with the stables. In his district they had seven football teams in the Junior competition. From the Juniors he progressed to the Seniors, and finally became a member of the Auckland City team, the only club he has ever played with in the Colony.

In 1895, he was chosen for Auckland Province, and was also selected for the three following seasons. In 1897 he played for North Island and received his International for New Zealand, but in season 1898, his appearance in football was restricted to a few games.

In 1901 he was chosen to represent his Country against New South Wales, and he also played for Auckland in the Provinces' touring matches. In 1902 he was at Stamford Bridge, and again visited England with the amateur "All Black" side, under Rugby Union rules in 1905-6.

I may say that George Smith has not made his mark in the football field without much preparation. He started his career determined on reaching the top, and for a player of his age, his brilliance to-day is a striking tribute to his methods of training.

In this essential for our game, Smith once declared to me that the secret of his success was due to his regularity of habits. He made himself set rules for training time, and follows out his plans to the letter. He will not be turned from his purpose, and if he makes up his mind on a certain course of action, that course is followed, cost what it may.



## Notes and Notions.

(By A. S. M.)

**T**HE constitution of the Union is of so far reaching and world-wide character, now that the only far-cical—if I be allowed the word—element about it is its own title.

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### A Parochial Title.

There must of course be a large amount of sentiment attached to the question of the alteration of the name or title of the Union. Yet it appears to me that sooner or later—the sooner the better—the force of the argument must appeal to the legislators. It is perhaps not a question which will meet with the ready approval of the majority, but still when one comes to study the full facts of the case, and the area—over which the Union has jurisdiction, in addition to the North of England, the Midlands, South Wales, Australia and New Zealand, it must be admitted that its name is of too parochial a character. The suggestion I throw out is not a new one. It has been put forward many times, but so rapid has been the progress of the game, and so influential has it become in the world of sport, that the time seems to me to be now opportune for a more suitable title.

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### Our Wider Area.

Not only is the interest in the game confined to the places I name. It has assumed greater proportions and has penetrated into other parts of the Empire. Our readers were given last week, on our front page, an article from an enthusiast in Ceylon, from which they could draw their own conclusions. Now this week I have received a communication from South Africa, in which the writer states that were the Union to send out a team to that Colony, it would be favourably received. He does not actually state that the game is on the point of being started there, but reading between the lines it appears to me that if a tour could be arranged, there would be many more unlikely things than another affiliation to the Union.

### Veiled Professionalism Again.

My correspondent appears to be convinced that in his country, the rules regarding the Rugby Union, relating to professionalism are being broken, just as much there as here at home. He does not bring any specific charge against any club or players. His statement is more of a general character. Yet he does give the manner in which it is carried out. I should be particularly pleased if the seeds from our game could be sown amongst the "Spingboks," but I cannot at the present see how his suggestion of a tour can be brought about.

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### Greeting from South Africa.

It is very gratifying to know that we have so interesting a reader of our publication, and shews what a tremendous area we cover. He was particularly delighted at the success of the Australian tour, the particulars and details of which he became acquainted with through the "Northern Union News," and he finishes up his interesting epistle with wishing us every success in our venture. We are exceedingly pleased to know and feel that we are doing what little we can to help and foster the game, which to my mind is the finest winter game, and one which is fast becoming predominant in winter sports.

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### The First Step.

I am pleased to learn that details are practically settled for the purchase of the first playing field in connection with the British Playing Fields Society. The field secured comprises over six acres, and lies between Manchester and Oldham. The owners, considering the object for which it is being obtained, have sold it outright at the nominal price of £750, and an undertaking has been given to raise at least £250 locally, though it is hoped that that amount will be doubled so that the balance can be spent in enclosing and draining the ground. I trust that all interested in the sport will subscribe liberally to this deserving object.

# T. & H.

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Per post, 3d. extra.



## Junior Jottings.

### Huddersfield and District N.R. Union.

The meeting of the two leading clubs in the Junior League, which should have taken place at Fartown on Saturday, had unfortunately to be postponed, as the ground was not in a fit state for football. The struggle however, will lose little interest when the match is actually played.

\*\*\*\*\*

Moldgreen seem to have fallen on very evil times, and no team could be raised again last week. It will be very hard if this once prosperous club has to go to the wall. If a certain N.U. club would fulfill its liabilities, under bye-law 30, Moldgreen would benefit materially.

\*\*\*\*\*

Moldgreen Res. are certainly coming on wonderfully. They played Birchencliffe Res. to 2 points on the latter's ground. A strenuous game was witnessed at Hillhouse, where neither the home team nor Underbank Res., could score.

\*\*\*\*\*

Netherton Res. easily accounted for the "B" team from Marsh, while the Marsh "A" team lost at home to Rastrick Res., who are however, accused of playing men over the age limit. At Rastrick, the home first team easily beat Meltham, though the visitors made a gallant fight.

### LANCASHIRE COMBINATION.

|                      | Scores. |    |    |    |                |
|----------------------|---------|----|----|----|----------------|
|                      | P.      | W. | L. | D. | For Ag't. Pts. |
| Oldham .....         | 8       | 7  | 1  | 0  | 162 24..87.50  |
| Wigan .....          | 9       | 7  | 1  | 1  | 172 47..83.33  |
| Leigh Shamr'ks ..... | 8       | 5  | 2  | 1  | 62 55..68.75   |
| St. Helens .....     | 9       | 6  | 3  | 0  | 92 52..66.66   |
| Wigan H'field .....  | 13      | 8  | 4  | 1  | 155 91..65.38  |
| Warrington .....     | 11      | 7  | 4  | 0  | 94 67..63.63   |
| Leigh .....          | 13      | 8  | 5  | 0  | 171 132..61.53 |
| Pemberton .....      | 10      | 6  | 4  | 0  | 88 77..60.00   |
| Runcorn .....        | 11      | 6  | 5  | 0  | 88 116..54.54  |
| Swinton .....        | 7       | 3  | 4  | 0  | 69 49..42.85   |
| Broughton R. ....    | 13      | 4  | 8  | 1  | 70 164..34.66  |
| Rochdale H. ....     | 10      | 2  | 7  | 1  | 44 124..25.00  |
| Salford .....        | 10      | 2  | 8  | 0  | 55 111..20.00  |
| Widnes .....         | 11      | 1  | 9  | 1  | 50 163..13.63  |
| Millom .....         | 6       | 1  | 5  | 0  | 23 95..16.66   |
| Barrow .....         | 5       | 1  | 4  | 0  | 26 54..20.00   |

## Answers to Correspondents.

\*\*\*\*\*

BLUE & WHITE (Halifax.)—April 4, 1906, at Wigan. Halifax, Nothing; Wigan, 6 goals, 8 tries. It was the most severe defeat that season as regards points. Probably your friend has in mind the 2 goals, 9 tries scored by Oldham.

BUNKER (Oldham.)—We are endeavouring to secure the information. See our next issue.

X.Y.Z. (Wigan.)—The question is hardly one for us to answer.

ROUGHYED (Werneth.)—(1) Season 1898-99, Broughton Rangers won the competition by 42 points, as against Oldham's 40. (2) Oldham had superior figures both in attack and defence, 385-277 for, and 58 points to 74 against. (3) Oldham lost at Watersheddings by 1 goal, 2 tries, to 1 try; but won at Wheeler's Field, by 1 goal, 2 tries, to nothing.

TONYPANDY.—Mid-Rhondda played 18 matches, won 5, lost 12, drew 1; their successes being against Merthyr, Aberdare (2), Barry (2).

RED ROSE (Warrington.)—We should prefer Anlezark (Oldham) and Thomas (Wigan). Your three-quarter line is good, but on present form we should vote for Wood at full-back.

DOUBTFUL (Salford.)—If the ball was touched by a defending player, the referee would order a five yards' scrum-mage.

KICK-OFF (Widnes.)—It is a rule and is not at the option of the side commencing play.

VETERAN (Boothstown.)—We are afraid the records are not now available. You might write to the club secretary. J.S. (Patricroft.)—We think Batten, Miller, Todd and Thomas (Dai) would need some beating, but there are many others somewhere about their equal.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, "Northern Union News," 10a, Fountain Street, Manchester. Correspondents desiring a reply other than through this column must enclose stamped addressed envelope.

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|-----------------------------|---------|
| ENGLAND v. WALES.....       |         |
| WIDNES v. COVENTRY.....     |         |
| SALFORD v. RUNCORN.....     |         |
| YORK v. LEIGH.....          |         |
| BATLEY v. HUDDERSFIELD..... |         |

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**MEN OF MARK.**

No. 12—Mr. F. RENTON, (Hunslet).  
(By ARGUS)

**I** WROTE many years ago of Frank Renton, "that he is distinguished on the field of play by his mannerism. His watching of the scrum-mage is most peculiar. With legs extended to their utmost capacity, his eyes cover the half-back, and all the sixteen forwards (this was before the forwards were reduced in numbers) at the same time, and the whistle is certain to be heard if anything wrong has taken place."

"He places himself at once on the penalty spot, calmly but severely views the other side, then turns round and watches the kicker; every movement having taken place in less time than it takes to describe. He pounces on offending players as a cat does on the unsuspecting mouse, and the offender knows his sins have found him out when he feels 'Renton's paw' on his shoulder."

My pen picture is equally applicable to-day, after years of service rendered to the Northern Union game. Frank Renton has rightly earned a reputation amongst players, and the very fact of his being in charge of a game is a guarantee that the rules will be observed, and that the play will be on the lines laid down by the laws of the game.

In matches where keen and local rivalry exists, and where players may naturally be expected to shew their feelings "this man from Yorkshire" appears to find unlimited delight, and I should think in games of this order he must really hold a record as far as Lancashire is concerned.

I have already mentioned that Mr. Renton is a Yorkshire man, but many are perhaps unaware that he played his first game of football for Kirkstall, turning out with the forwards. Then he went to Hunslet where he sometimes played at half-back, but his active participation in the game was not unduly prolonged, and after some five or six seasons he retired. Being officially connected with the Parkside club, he officiated as one of the Hunslet umpires, and when the present system was adopted he became a linesman. Altogether he was officially connected with the club in the Rugby Union for about sixteen years.

When the Northern Union was established he commenced a connection which has extended up to the present time. He is now our senior referee in active service.

**M. A. P.**

\*\*\*\*\*

The County Unions of Lancashire and Yorkshire take a third portion of to-day's finals at Broughton and Leeds.

\*\*\*\*\*

The victory of Barrow against Broughton Rangers was the first success recorded by the Furness club for ten years.

\*\*\*\*\*

Barron, the ex Hull Kingston Rovers' three-quarter back, recorded a trio of tries for Leeds against Hull last Saturday.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Broughton Rangers' officials have placed Mead, the Welsh half-back, and O'Neill, the Irish three-quarter back, on the transfer list.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Rovers' forwards are keeping up their reputation for clever play, and three more tries went to their already wonderful aggregate last Saturday.

\*\*\*\*\*

James Jolley, the Runcorn half-back, whose re-appearance assisted him to defeat the Lancashire Cup finalists last Saturday, was born at Runcorn, nearly thirty-six years ago.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dewsbury possess the best defensive record in the Northern League. Swinton and Widnes come next, and both the Lancashire clubs have only allowed a dozen tries to opponents in twelve games.

\*\*\*\*\*

James Dearden, the veteran Rochdale scrummager, can claim to have completed fifteen seasons of active football playing. He played five seasons for Rochdale Rangers previous to his joining the Hornets team.

\*\*\*\*\*

George Marsden, who has done much to revive the fortunes of the Bradford Northern team, was born at Morley, near Leeds, in 1880. He has played in three matches for England under Rugby Union rules, a unique record for a present day Northern Union League player.

\*\*\*\*\*

Club officials and referees are asked to note the new address of Mr. J. H. Houghton, Westwood, Barrett Road, Birkdale, Southport.

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