

HORNET 3

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# The Northern Union News.

And OLDHAM F. C. OFFICIAL PROGRAMME.

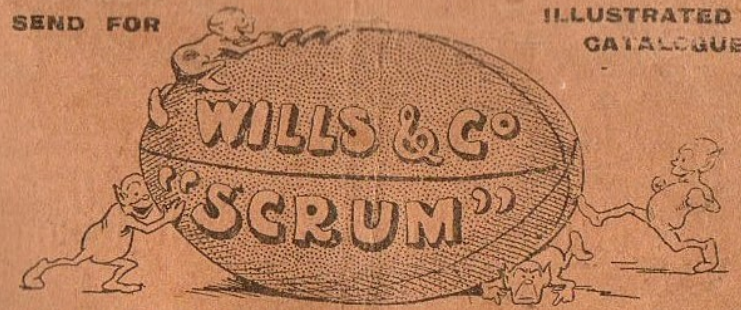
No. 31:] Saturday March 18th, 1911. [One Penny.

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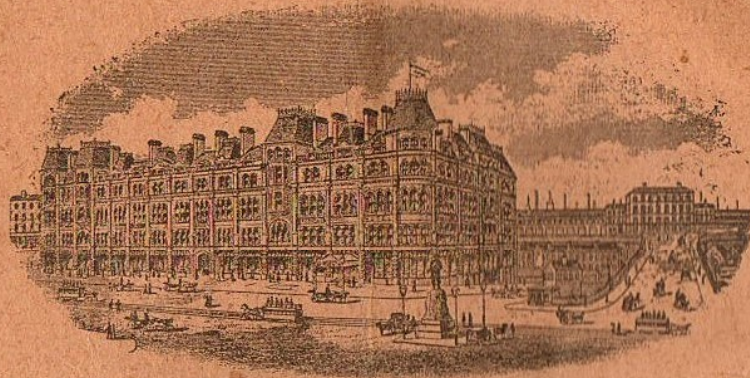
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# THE NORTHERN UNION NEWS.

No. 31.]

Saturday, March 18th, 1911.

[One Penny

## MEN AND MATTERS.

**Progress in Cumberland** We notice in a contemporary that there is distinct evidence of a Northern Union revival in Cumberland. We welcome this announcement, and support the many points advanced. But real and lasting progress can only be made by clubs playing attractive football, and to attain this object, the charms of Cumberland, as a recruiting centre for Northern League clubs, must not be made too prominent.

\*\*\*\*\*

**A Change of Title.** We are again enabled this week, to publish clear evidences of progress, both at home and abroad. Really if events move at the present rate, our officials will soon need to consider the matter of change of title. Northern Rugby Union appears now too parochial altogether. We shall welcome suggestions from our readers, and will forward them to the right quarter.

\*\*\*\*\*

**County Championship.** We understand that the Yorkshire County committee are favourable to the qualification for County players of the future being changed. The "all are welcome policy" has unquestionably proved a failure, and now

the contemplated alteration is for players born in the county. Then will county matches be worthy of the name.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Second International.** The second County match of the season will be played next Saturday week at Ebbw Vale. Interest in our code in the Principality is not over great at present, but should the match produce a similar exhibition to the corresponding game of last season, the Northern Union enthusiasts at Ebbw Vale will have an enjoyable afternoon, look you! They have already forgotten the disaster at Coventry.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Fast Games.** We also noticed a criticism of a match last Saturday. The critic bemoaned the modern desire for fast games, and incidentally, declared that the "haste" was detrimental to good three-quarter back play. It all depends upon the line of vision. We have distinct recollections this season of having witnessed fast games, wherein the backs excelled in the art of effective combination. Really we were under the impression that the two terms were synonymous. But we must live and learn, and in time our critical friend will see things.



Northern Union League.—Results up to this morning.

P'ts. Per-				P'ts. Per-									
P.	W.	L.	D.	ForAgs.	centge	P.	W.	L.	D.	ForAgs.	centge		
Oldham	27	23	3	1.	382 176	87.03	Swinton	26	13	13	0.	204 166	50.00
Wigan	27	22	5	0.	490 151	81.48	St. Helens	27	13	13	1.	333 324	50.00
Wakefield T.	26	20	5	1.	375 170	78.84	Keighley	25	12	12	1.	204 375	50.00
Hunslet	28	18	10	0.	334 303	64.28	Leigh	24	11	13	0.	174 253	45.83
Widnes	26	15	8	3.	244 12	63.46	Salford	26	11	14	1.	271 274	44.23
Hull K. R.	26	14	9	3.	465 271	59.61	Broughton R.	26	11	14	1.	175 255	44.23
Leeds	26	14	10	2.	308 232	57.69	Bradford	27	9	17	1.	159 310	35.18
Dewsbury	26	15	11	0.	259 202	57.69	Runcorn	27	7	17	3.	181 318	31.48
Halifax	27	15	11	1.	292 198	57.40	Ebbw Vale	26	8	18	0.	162 271	30.76
Warrington	27	13	9	5.	229 250	57.40	Barrow	26	7	18	1.	203 366	23.84
Hull	29	15	11	3.	327 250	56.89	Merthyr T.	18	5	13	0.	90 337	27.77
Batley	26	13	12	1.	256 189	51.92	York	23	6	17	0.	175 302	26.08
Huddersfield	29	15	14	0.	455 256	51.72	Coventry	24	5	18	1.	212 493	22.91
Rochdale H.	27	13	13	1.	262 226	50.00	Bramley	26	5	20	1.	129 389	21.15

LANGASHIRE LEAGUE.

Results up to date.

	Scores.				P'ts	
	P.	W.	L.	D.		
Oldham	18	15	2	1.	224 95	31
Wigan	18	15	3	0.	330 81	39
Warrington	21	11	7	3.	178 164	25
Widnes	20	10	7	3.	185 104	23
Rochdale H.	18	8	9	1.	174 148	17
Swinton	18	8	10	0.	150 135	16
Leigh	18	8	10	0.	123 183	16
St. Helens	16	7	8	1.	193 177	15
Salford	18	7	10	1.	146 183	15
Broughton R.	18	7	11	0.	119 205	14
Runcorn	21	4	14	3.	123 284	11
Barrow	19	5	13	1.	108 289	11

LANGASHIRE COMBINATION.

	Scores Per-						
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	centage
Wigan	22	18	1	3.	421	79	88.63
Oldham	21	17	4	0.	355	81	80.95
Wigan High.	23	16	6	1.	271	147	71.73
Pemberton	17	11	5	1.	157	114	67.64
Warrington	22	14	8	0.	240	125	63.63
Runcorn	22	13	9	0.	185	180	59.09
St. Helens	19	10	9	0.	150	166	52.63
Leigh Sham.	16	7	7	2.	100	114	50.00
Leigh	22	11	11	0.	206	245	50.00
Broughton R.	21	7	13	1.	127	212	35.71
Swinton	19	5	11	3.	106	173	34.21
Rochdale H.	20	5	14	1.	101	222	27.50
Salford	21	5	15	1.	109	201	26.19
Widnes	21	3	15	3.	78	276	21.42
Millom	10	2	8	0.	52	157	20.00
Barrow	11	2	9	0.	56	193	18.18

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE.

Results up to date.

	Scores.				P'ts	
	P.	W.	L.	D.		
Wakefield T.	19	14	4	1.	251 109	29
Halifax	19	13	6	0.	204 148	29
Hunslet	19	13	6	0.	242 206	26
Leeds	21	12	7	2.	263 189	26
Batley	21	11	9	1.	193 132	23
Huddersfield	20	11	9	0.	368 154	22
Dewsbury	22	11	11	0.	215 188	22
Kingston Rovers	19	9	7	3.	263 181	21
Hull	19	9	8	2.	205 162	20
Keighley	21	9	11	1.	162 349	19
Bradford	22	6	15	1.	116 275	13
Bramley	19	13	15	1.	87 270	7
York	20	3	17	0.	138 294	6

YORKSHIRE COMBINATION.

	Scores Per-						
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	centage
Wakefield T.	15	12	2	1.	237	55	83.33
Halifax	15	12	3	0.	193	71	80.00
Huddersfield	14	9	5	0.	209	104	64.28
Purston W.H.	13	8	5	0.	113	169	61.53
Dewsbury	14	15	6	3.	112	147	46.42
Leeds	15	5	10	0.	105	138	33.33
Batley	15	4	9	2.	91	185	33.33
Featherst'ER.	15	4	10	1.	78	202	30.00
Hunslet	14	1	10	3.	55	200	17.85

LEAVES FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

(By THE EDITOR).

**I** CONTINUE to receive, week by week, communications which tell of remarkable progress being made by the New South Wales League. The fact that the authorities in Australia, will, in a few months be selecting their team, is no doubt primarily responsible for the enthusiastic growth, for the Colonial dearly loves a visit "Home." But at the same time, it is our game which has taken on, and this important fact cannot be overlooked.

The Game of the Season.

The "Sydney Daily Telegraph" tells the following interesting story:—  
 "League officials are confident that they will have all the big plums so far as football matches go next season. Their operations were somewhat restricted in New Zealand last year, for lack of grounds. The disability, so advices go, will not be in evidence next season, and the statement is made that the finest team of Rugby players in Maoriland will visit Australia, a number of the stars of the Rugby Union firmament having promised to make the trip. Up till now the big games of the year in Sydney, have been matches between New Zealand and New South Wales under Rugby Union rules. New Zealand had always been too good for New South Wales until recent years, when the improving Australians showed that they were more of a match for their oversea adversaries. With the advent of the League, and the following wholesome defections from the Union ranks, this State became so weak that a match between the respective teams became a farce. The last straw was when the Wallabies joined the League in a body."

Under Different Rules.

"If the statement is true that the most prominent Union players in New Zealand are going over to the League, then the stirring contests will be continued, the only difference being that the games will be played under different rules. If it is not true, then there will be an end to the keen rivalry on the football ground between the two countries, for in the present circumstances, a game between New South Wales and New Zealand, under Union rules would be just as lop-sided as a game under League rules. In the first case, New Zealand would win

easily, and in the second New South Wales would be on top. With both countries represented by their best men, a great game with big crowds is inevitable. Under present conditions New Zealand's best players are in the Union, while New South Wales's top-notchers are in the League."

Progress in Queensland.

Mr. R. W. Eve, a vice-president of the Queensland League, who is in Sydney on a short visit, spoke of the prospects in Queensland of the game next season. "We are" he said "better off for grounds for next season, and I think that we will have all the best players on our side. I know of a number of representative men who are going over. We have had to fight against undue pressure in the past—pressure brought to bear on employers, who were asked to stop the leave of players if they came over to us. It went so far, in some cases, as to try and get the men dismissed from their employment. One employer, however, suggested to the player concerned, that if he did not play for the League he might look for another job. The boomerang came home that time, and I don't think there will be a repetition this year of similar tactics. It was simply a case of partisanship outwining discretion. The game, too, has taken on with the public, and last season we had the biggest crowd ever seen there at a football match."

Football and Swimming.

I have before, this season, mentioned the connection between football and swimming. The League officials have made progress in the latter sport, equal to that of the former, and the "Telegraph" says:—

"The strides made by the Swimming League in New South Wales have been extraordinary. The League was formed in the first place to provide summer recreation for League footballers, who were debarred from taking part in amateur swimming events. Now it has grown a long way beyond that. Prominent swimmers, who have never played football, have joined the League, and the officials have just learned that more prominent men are coming over. One of them will be a particularly strong card, his exhibitions having been a big factor in the success from the spectacular point of view, of the amateur carnivals.



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## Notes and Notions.

(By A. S. M.)

Apropos of my remarks last week, anent the progress our game was making in Cumberland, and the improvement in that county, and also the desire which has been evinced in certain old strongholds of Rugby Union, to again take it up, there comes a communication from a gentleman in North Lancashire. He is interested in the Northern Union game, and he points out that in his opinion the time is now ripe for the formation of Junior Leagues in his particular district, and also in Westmoreland. And he suggests that the Union committee should send representatives to a meeting, to be called in a convenient centre.

\*\*\*\*

I have, during the week, had an opportunity of ascertaining the views of the Union committee upon this gentleman's suggestion. It has of course, already been published throughout the Press, that the matter has been referred to the Emergency committee for further consideration, but from what I can gather, I believe that active steps will be taken to fall in with the scheme. I do not wish to anticipate the decision of the Emergency committee in any shape or form, and I think I am not transgressing in this respect when I say there is a great possibility of an exhibition match being played up there in the near future, and that after the match the meeting suggested will be held.

\*\*\*\*\*

### The Possibilities and the Scope.

Personally, I think there is a considerable range of possibilities in the suggestions, and that there is great scope therein, I am convinced. From time immemorial, the Rugby game has been played in these localities, and it was, and always has been, the chief love of the sporting community. That it has fallen on evil times lately, is quite true, but this has been caused to my mind, at least so far as Westmoreland is concerned, by the obsolete methods adopted by the Rugby Union. And I am firmly of the opinion, that could they have the opportunity of witnessing the Northern Union game, as it is played at the present time, they would be enamoured, and the desire would be created to establish the code in their midst.

### From across the Atlantic.

I have from time to time, drawn attention to the rapid progress, and the popularity which the game attained, both at home and abroad. And the communication to which I have above referred is only one of many which have recently been received. They have come from all parts of the globe. South Africa, Colombo, and now this week one has been received from America. In this, the writer states that efforts are being made out there to foster our game, and he and others are doing their utmost to establish a League on the lines, and under the rules of the Northern Union. He further suggests, that if the Australasian team, to visit England next season, could also visit the United States, it would be a great missionary effort. This latter suggestion is, I understand, receiving the attention of the Australasian authorities, and has been on the "carpet" for some time. And it is quite possible that they will play a series of games in the States, either previous to their arrival in England, or at the conclusion of their tour.

\*\*\*\*

### Union Committee and Australian Representation.

It is fairly generally known that the Australian League, which is of course, affiliated to the parent body, have made application to be represented on the committee of the "Home" Union. This question was before the latter at their meeting on Tuesday last, and the application was favourably commented upon. It was eventually decided to accede to the request of the Colonials on certain conditions. These I am not in a position to divulge, but I can assure my readers they should not present any real difficulty to the authorities "down under."

\*\*\*\*

### The Cup Semi-Finals and Final.

A special meeting of the Union committee will be held next Tuesday, for the purpose of making the draw for the semi-finals, and selecting the venues for the same, and also the final tie.



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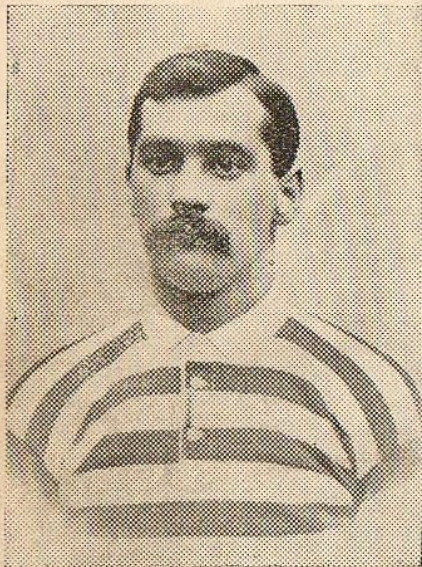
"Northern League"

SCORES AT A GLANCE.

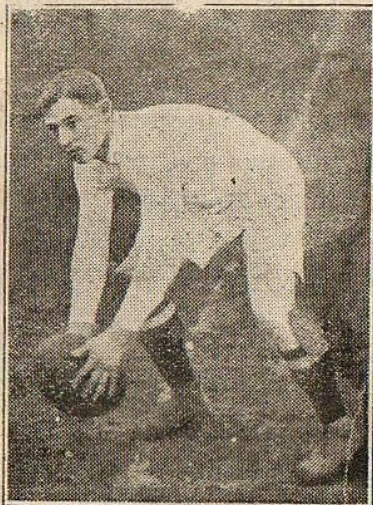
Barrow	...	16-6	13-8	...	5-10	...	20-3	5-0	17-3	...	16-13	34-4	...	3-0	57-0	8-13	3-2	...	1611	3-5	...	2-7	...	6-2	0-11	311	...
Batley	...	10-6	19-4	...	1018	...	5-22	9-3	2314	...	513	12-3	8-3	...	18-5	...	6-5	...	24*8	5-0	...	0-5	...	6-2	0-11	311	...
Bradford	...	2-2	...	...	6-8	10-8	10-13	...	...	...	5-9	12-8	7-10	...	...	...	1021	9-5	2-3	14-7	4-0	5-8	8-3	2-8	0-15	...	...
Bramley	...	37-2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2-5	3-15	14-5	...	...	13-25	10-10	3-14	1026	...	...
Broughton R	...	19-5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17-4	14-8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Coventry.	...	2-2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dewsbury.	...	37-2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ebbw Vale	...	19-5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hull	...	23-5	39-2	53-0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Huddersfield	...	7-3	13-3	23-0	6-9	18-6	16-6	41-0	16-8	0-15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kingst'n R'vs.	...	16-0	8-0	26-6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hunslet	...	2-2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Keighley	...	2-2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Leigh	...	10-3	19-3	23-7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Merthyr	...	10-5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oldham	...	5-3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rochdale	...	1511	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Runcorn	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Salford	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. Helens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Swinton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wakefield	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Warrington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Widnes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wigan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
York	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

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.





W. DIXON.



A. E. WOOD.

(Reproduced by kind permission of the "Oldham Standard.")



# OLDHAM F. C. Official Programme.

## Oldham v. Rochdale Hornets.

AT

WATERSHEDDINGS, OLDHAM.

Saturday, March 18th, 1911.

### PAVILION GOSSIP.

The team that visited Watersheddings, last Saturday, tried very hard to gain points; but it so happened that they could not Barrow any.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Oldham team, just now, believe quite contrary to the pugilist who said "Tis better to give than to receive!"

\*\*\*\*\*

How White Tom went, when that other fellow's head bumped into White's thigh!

\*\*\*\*\*

Never mind; White is himself again; thanks to Mr. Sutcliffe's baths, and the treatment of Mr. Oakes. But Tom is accustomed to baths, in fact he came to Oldham from Bath. Fact!

\*\*\*\*\*

The team that played against Oldham last Saturday, are, I believe, the only team on the present League list that has never beaten Oldham.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our office boy says that at Barrow there are too many Vickers; at least that's his Maxim.

\*\*\*\*\*

Well, Hornets, how are you buzzing?

\*\*\*\*\*

Three times have the "Hornets" stung Widnes; three times this season also has Oldham beaten Widnes, and three times has Oldham beaten Rochdale. Well, one or the other will have to break the string of coincidences.

\*\*\*\*\*

(Our office boy has just been reading the above paragraph, and has

telephoned to Rochdale, to say that he thinks "we shall just be about able to Oldham.")

\*\*\*\*\*

He's not a bad judge; but all the same, it's best not to prophesy unless you know.

\*\*\*\*\*

What a pity Oldham and Wigan "A" teams cannot meet on account of to-day's cup-tie. Could they have met at Oldham it would have been a record "A" team gate, and might probably have meant Oldham "A" winning the Combination championship.

\*\*\*\*\*

The entries for the Workshop competition close next Monday. The watches, gold and silver, for the winners and runners up respectively, will be well worth the struggle for them. They will be guaranteed, even "though they are not "on tick."

\*\*\*\*\*

The watches are just of the same brand as last season, and anyone asking one of the lucky wearers of one of those trophies, can soon be satisfied.

\*\*\*\*\*

Oldham visit Coventry next Thursday, just to have a Peep at Tommy Cash, Dai Beynon, "Mick" Yewlett, and the Coventry people in general.

\*\*\*\*\*

There will be an interesting fixture at Watersheddings next Saturday. Leigh will be here. They won at Leigh. There are no encores allowed.





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OLDHAM TEAM.

- 1—A. E. WOOD
- 2—G. W. SMITH
- 3—S. DEANE.
- 4—J. LOMAS.
- 5—W. DIXON
- 6—A. E. ANLEZARK
- 7—T. WHITE
- 8—FERGUSON (Capt.).
- 9—A. SMITH.
- 10—AVERY
- 11—W. B. JARDINE
- 12—F. W. WISE.
- 13—J. WRIGHT
- 14—McCABE.

Referee—B. ENNION.

Touch-Judges—F. RATCLIFFE and R. JONES.

ROCHDALE HORNETS TEAM.

- |                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| A. FARRAR, Full-back. |           |
| T. WEST,              | ½-Backs.  |
| J. BAXTER,            | "         |
| J. E. ROBINSON,       | "         |
| H. PADDON,            | "         |
| R. SCHOFIELD,         | ½-Backs   |
| E. W. JONES,          | "         |
| T. WOODS,             | Forwards. |
| W. ROMAN,             | "         |
| E. JENKINS,           | "         |
| J. DEARDEN,           | "         |
| J. FITZSIMMONS,       | "         |
| A. TURNER,            | "         |
| J. BOWERS,            | "         |
| W. RICHARDSON,        | "         |

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Wigan .....		Hull .....	
Broughton Rangers .....		G Dewsbury .....	
Bradford .....		Ebbw Vale .....	
C Salford .....		H York .....	
Batley .....		Huddersfield .....	
D Barrow .....		J Hull Kingston Rovers .....	
Coventry .....		Hallifax .....	
E St. Helens .....		K Oldham Athletic .....	
Leigh .....		Notts Forest .....	

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## Play and Players.

No. 14—A. E. WOOD (Oldham).

(By OBSERVER.)

**A**SURE full-back is a valuable asset to a team, particularly in cup-tie football. I do not wish to imply that less responsibility attaches to the "man behind" in League football, but in a cup match it is so easy for the critic to attribute blame to the full-back.

He is expected to check combination, where the half-backs or three-quarter backs have failed, and he must kick judiciously with the object of saving his forwards. In other words we expect perfection from the full-back, in a strenuous cup-tie struggle.

### Two Great Displays.

And I have seen A. E. Wood, of Oldham, in his two cup matches this season at Craven-street, Hull, against the Rovers, and at Watersheddings, against Wakefield, two Yorkshire teams, be it noted, whose forwards I regard as the best club packs in the county. And Alfred Wood, in one hundred and sixty minutes, only allowed two tries. You know the nature of the opposition, and I regard the performance of Wood's, in these two great matches, as the best of his great career.

He displayed coolness and courage, which to me, stamp him as the full-back of the year. His fielding of the ball—his punting, and his saving at the feet of desperate forwards in both games, was a treat to witness, and mainly by his greatness in defence, are Oldham to-day interested in the challenge cup competition.

### Surpassed Carmichael.

And at Hull, Wood proved himself a player of ability in another respect. He out-kicked the great Carmichael himself,

on Carmichael's own ground. His goal-kicking that day, was a revelation to the Hull crowd, and his improvement of one of the tries from the touch line, was the crowning success, in a glorious record-making afternoon.

To the casual observer, Wood's appearance on the football field, does not suggest any special ability. And he adds to the erroneous idea, by never settling down, during the first ten minutes of the game. But when once he finds himself, then the man is revealed. His tackling is forceful, and his defence resourceful. He grips his opponent in a manner which betokens his intention, and he knows the value of running himself as far as he can before kicking. In attack, he is seen to equal advantage, for he judiciously feeds his three-quarters, and realises the value of combination. A goal placer of more than ordinary ability, Wood fairly upholds the traditions of the Oldham team.

### A Brief Biography.

Born at Wolverhampton, in 1883, A. E. Wood first played Association football. This was during his apprenticeship. He played the Rugby game, first with Newton Abbott, when sixteen years of age. Then followed a season with Bristol and two seasons with Gloucester. He then went to Cheltenham, and played for 13 matches, scoring 81 points. His abilities were soon recognised, and at nineteen years of age, he played for Devonshire. He also possesses eight caps for Gloucester, and four years ago, he secured his International selection for England.

Wood is a versatile player, and has appeared at half-back, three-quarter back and full-back in representative football.



## Supply and Demand.

By OBSERVER.)

SOME time ago, the "Northern Union News" called attention to the fact, that the search for finished players, by teams who had the money to buy, was not successful, and that the question of supply and demand, would in the near future, be a problem which would confront the clubs.

My reason for raising the question again, is a perusal of the meeting held by the St. Helens club, to consider the question of converting the club into a limited liability company. One argument brought to support the change was that the shareholders' money would enable the officials to build up a team which would do credit to the town.

### The Only Remedy.

This idea was opposed by Mr. J. H. Houghton, the honorary secretary of the Northern League, and with many of Mr. Houghton's points, I thoroughly agree. He candidly stated that he knew clubs who had searched the United Kingdom through, to find the finished player, but had perforce to give up the hunt.

Thus, there is only one remedy, for there is no overlooking the fact, that many of our leading teams are lacking in efficient reserve players to fill up the blanks in their senior teams. Mr. Houghton declares that the hope of the future, lies with the junior local players. And I think few, who seriously consider the matter, will disagree with the contention.

I attribute the falling away in public interest some few seasons ago, mainly to the fact that our interests were not varied enough. Then we had few junior competitions, but now School-boy Leagues, Workshop competitions, and Intermediates, abound in every large centre. And I am bold enough to say that already we are feeling the benefit of enterprise amongst the juniors.

Our legislators also recognise the palpable fact that the juniors must be catered for. Hence the formation of the Playing Fields Society, and the active

interest taken by the leading officials in the Junior and Intermediate Leagues. We must not overlook the fact, that the junior of to-day, in the course of time, becomes the senior. So with the spectators. The schoolboy, unless our code is brought prominently to his notice, takes up other out-door recreation, and is probably lost to the game for ever. Happily this fact has been realised, and I would that clubs, instead of wasting time and money in endeavouring to find finished players far afield, would concentrate their energies on the rough diamonds nearer home.

And I would point out another aspect of the matter. I am a firm believer in the "Esprit de corps." I hold great respect for the imported player, and pay testimony to his football abilities, and that he always endeavours to do his best for his adopted club.

### A Real Sportsman.

But I lift my hat to plain Bill Smith, who, brought up in the village, devotes himself to his local club, and by his abilities, attains high honours. He is not tempted to desert his friends by the mere offer of another £1 per week, elsewhere. He is a sportsman who possesses real love for the game.

This, to me, is the ideal. And it is the spirit which rouses real and lasting enthusiasm amongst spectators. I know there are apparently strong arguments from the other point of view, and that by adopting professionalism, the Northern Rugby Union may be said to have unduly considered the business side of sport. But at the same time, a business man may be none the less a sportsman. I could, if space permitted, instance matters which would prove my point. But I have confidence in the intelligence of my readers, and ask all and sundry to support their club in the endeavours which are being made to encourage and develop local talent. The outlay will, I feel sure, prove a sound business investment.

## The Fight for the "Fourth."

(By OBSERVER.)

HERE is no overlooking the fact that the supplementary competition this season, for the Northern League Championship, promises to be more interesting than ever. If the position of Oldham seems assured the next three places—possession of one is necessary to qualify for the competition—or to be precise, the order of the next three teams, are at this stage problematical.

Wakefield's defeat at Leeds, last Saturday, enabled Wigan to take the second place, and should they maintain this advantage, it assures them of playing the first game at Wigan, for the rule is that club number one meets club number four, and club number two will oppose club number three, on the ground of the first named club in each case.

### Advantage at Home.

We all know the advantage of home ground in a cup tie, and the competition between Wigan and Wakefield will be equally keen, as the rivalry between Hunslet, Widnes, and Hull Kingston Rovers.

But the fight for the fourth place, to the ordinary individual, overshadows the struggle for the second or third, and I purpose this week, briefly reviewing the prospects of the three clubs, who, this morning have a reasonable chance of securing the coveted honour. Take Hunslet first. They have yet six matches to play.

Away.	Home.
Rochdale Hornets.	Batley.
Hull.	Bramley.
Hull K. Rovers.	Keighley.

That their away task is a formidable one, cannot for a moment be denied. And I would point out that in the case of their match with Hull Kingston Rovers, the issue is of the greatest importance. The percentage system carries with it a double advantage, or a penalty, as the case may be, when competing clubs are making for the same object, and should Hunslet be beaten at Craven street, the Rovers come up by the same percentage

as Hunslet would come down. Put another way, to Hunslet, a defeat in this particular match would mean, that on today's percentage, Hunslet's failure would reduce the difference between them and the Rovers to 1.58 per cent.—a narrow margin.

Widnes have only four matches; two at home, and two away. Their programme is:—

Home.	Away.
Broughton Rangers.	St. Helens.
Dewsbury.	Ebbw Vale.

Hull Kingston Rovers have a more extensive fixture list to complete, and there game are:—

Home.	Away.
Halifax.	Batley.
Hunslet.	Bradford.
Salford.	Bramley.
	St. Helens.

It will be noticed that the Rovers have an odd game. This is due to the fact that they have played Merthyr Tydvil, and as the Welsh club were defunct on the date for the return game, their complete fixture will be 33 games.

Thus appearances point to Widnes finishing fourth. I have shewn the disadvantage which arises through the meeting of two competing clubs in the race for the championship, and it must be confessed that both Hunslet and Hull Kingston Rovers have a big task before them. Danger only threatens Widnes in their match with St. Helens. They should win both their home games, and the visit to Ebbw Vale also, should result in maximum points. Assuming Widnes are defeated at St. Helens, and Hunslet drop points at Craven Street, then the Rovers could still get fourth, if they won all but one of their remaining seven games.

But three more wins for Widnes will make them 65.00; whilst it will need six successes to bring Hull Kingston Rovers a percentage of 65.15. I think facts and figures point to Widnes.



## Junior Jottings.

\*\*\*\*

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

The only matches played were cup-ties, and perhaps for that reason were very keen contests, and all the victories were close ones.

\*\*\*\*

Slaithwaite seem to have been reserving their powers for the cup-ties. They earned the right to play in the semi-final by beating Netherton. Though only two points separated the teams. Slaithwaite crossed their opponent's line twice, and only had goals scored against them.

\*\*\*\*

Birchcliffe, also at home, accounted for Flockton in almost a similar manner. One hears from Birchcliffe that their team will win the cup this season. They will have to fight hard to overcome Slaithwaite, away from home, in the semi-final.

\*\*\*\*

Another good game was seen at Underbank, where the home team again beat Rastrick, though they should have scored more than five points to nil. Rastrick, as indicated last week, were handicapped through injuries.

\*\*\*\*

Underbank should figure in the final, for the third time in succession.

\*\*\*\*

The Moldgreen team were beaten, and one would think considerably surprised also, by the Intermediate team from Marsh, in the second round of the District cup-ties. The youngsters crossed their opponents line three times, while their own defence was only pierced once. Marsh deserve the highest possible praise for the performance.

## Answers to Correspondents.

T.F.W. (Hull).—There were six districts in this season's qualifying stages for the Challenge cup. The individual clubs were 45 in number.

ERA (Rochdale).—The match you want was played at Rochdale on November 27. Hornets score, 3 goals, 3 tries; to Leeds 1 goal, 1 try.

CONSTANT READER (Halifax).—See our "Scores at a Glance." This will give you all the particulars you require. If you cannot complete your record, write us again.

HARRY B. (Salford).—It was in the Cup competition of 1905-6. In the first match each side scored a goal, in the first re-play, each side scored a try, and then in the second re-play, Salford won by five points to three. They beat Keighley in the semi-final by 6 points to 3, but lost to Bradford in the final by five points to nothing.

EXEMPT (Wigan).—It is a matter of opinion. Both players are first class, and behind forwards who heel out the ball, both would give first class displays.

DOUBTFUL (Heckmondwike).—Certainly, the Rugby Union pack comprises eight players; the Northern Union only six. Each code plays seven men behind the forwards.

ROBIN (Beverley).—Season 1902-3. In the first two months the Rovers played eight matches, and beat Hull by a try to nothing. They lost to Halifax, Leigh, Oldham, Broughton Rangers, Swinton and Hunslet.

EXTRA (Oldham).—Season 1905-6. Played 40, won 28, lost 10, drew 2. The losses were against Warrington, Salford, Leeds, Leigh (2), Hull Kingston Rovers, Halifax, Widnes, Dewsbury, and Broughton Rangers.

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## M. A. P.

The Abram Colliery club have been admitted to hon. membership of the Union.

\*\*\*\*\*

We understand efforts are being made in Brighouse, to re-suscitate the old Rangers club.

\*\*\*\*\*

The order for the challenge cup medals has been given to Messrs. Fillan & Sons of Huddersfield.

\*\*\*\*\*

For the last three years, the contesting teams in the final of the challenge cup have hailed from Yorkshire.

\*\*\*\*\*

Runcorn and Warrington have been fined 7/- for late starts, at Oldham and Broughton respectively.

\*\*\*\*\*

The explanation of the Broughton officials, respecting the late arrival of their "A" team at Runcorn last Saturday, has been accepted by the League Committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

The International match, Wales v. England, down for decision on April 1, has been fixed for the Ebbw Vale club's ground.

\*\*\*\*\*

Will the Lancashire County Committee fall in with the decision of their Yorkshire neighbours, in respect to the qualification of County players?

\*\*\*\*\*

Will Oldham emulate Broughton Rangers feat, and secure all the cups possible, is a question at present troubling the minds of their followers?

The veteran's game at Salford, last Saturday, attracted a crowd which paid £91 at the gates, in addition to a large sale of tickets.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. A. Hestford, the well-known referee, has been appointed by the Pendle-to Co-operative Society, their delegate to the Bradford conference during Whit-week.

\*\*\*\*\*

A new club has been formed in Ashton-under-Lyne, and in their first match, defeated one of the Manchester and District League teams. The new club, we are informed, join this League next season.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Swinton officials will hand over to the benefit fund of Wallwork and Barnett, the compensation they will receive from Bradford, for to-day's postponed League match. The match originally was for the benefit of the two players named.

\*\*\*\*\*

The League committee have confirmed the following re-arranged fixtures:—

Salford v. St. Helens, from March 4 to March 22.

Coventry v. Oldham, from March 4 to March 23.

Leigh v. Broughton Rangers, from March 4, to April 14.

Hunslet v. Badley, from March 18 to March 20.

Wakefield Trinity v. Rochdale Hornets, from March 18 to March 22.

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Results and Scorers of Last Saturday's Matches.

*DEWSBURY, 3 4—18. Tries: Sharples (2), Hardman, Ware. Goals: Ware (3).	EBBW VALE, 1 0—2. Goal: Evans.
*HUDDERSFIELD, 4 5—23. Tries: Kitchen, Byrne, Davies, Rosenfeld, Wrigley. Goals: Wrigley (3), Gronow.	BATLEY, 1 1—5. Try: Loosemore. Goal: Anderson.
*OLDHAM, 3 2—12. Tries: G. Smith, A. Smith. Goals: Wood (3).	BARROW, 0 0—0.
HUNSLET, 2 3—13. Tries: Smith, Wilson, Batten (W.) Goals: Batten (W.)	*BRADFORD, 1 1—5. Try: Schofield. Goal: Schofield.
*WIDNES, 1 4—14. Tries: O'Gara (2), Laws (2). Goal: Dainteth.	BRAMLEY, 0 0—0.
*BROUGHTON RANGERS, 3 1—9. Try: Harris. Goals: Harris, Davidson (2).	RUNCORN, 1 1—5.
*HULL, 3 4—18. Tries: Britton, Rogers, Cottrell, Wallace. Goals: Rogers (3).	COVENTRY, 0 2—6. Tries: Dakin, Houghton.
*KINGSTON ROVERS, 6 10—42. Tries: Brain (2), Thomas (2), Spivey (2), Craven, Sykes, Mann, Speakman. Goals: Carmichael (6).	St. HELENS, 2 2—10. Tries: Rogers, Flanagan. Goals: Turtill (2).
*LEEDS, 2 4—16. Tries: Oliver (2), Ward, Barron. Goals: Young (2).	WAKEFIELD T. 1 3—11. Tries: Simpson (3). Goal: Holmes.
SWINTON, 3 0—6. Goals: Griffiths (2), Fairhurst.	*ROCHDALE HORNETS, 1 1—5. Try: Turner. Goal: Paddon.
*WARRINGTON, 0 2—6. Tries: Johnston (2).	SALFORD, 0 0—0. *Denotes home team.

Referee's List.

**Monday, March 20th.**  
Hunslet v. Batley.—A. Hestford; R. Robinson, G. W. Gibson.

**Wednesday, March 22nd.**  
Salford v. St. Helens.—B. Ennion; F. Hutchins, J. T. Hayes.  
Wakefield T. v. Rochdale Hornets.—T. H. King; H. Schofield, H. Adams.

**Thursday, March 23rd.**  
Coventry v. Oldham.—W. K. Hirst; E. J. Hannaford, J. Dutton.

**Saturday, March 25th.**  
Coventry v. Swinton.—W. H. Wood; R. H. Jackson, R. Jones.  
Batley v. Kingston Rovers.—F. Renton; H. Schofield, R. L. Smith.  
Bradford v. Barrow.—A. Hestford; T. Walsh, J. Wormald.  
Huddersfield v. Dewsbury.—S. Tillison; F. T. Rowlands, E. Abbey.  
Hull v. Hunslet.—H. Edmondson; F. Wilson, J. W. Mellor.  
Leeds v. Wigan.—E. Tonge; C. Peel, D. Longbottom.

Oldham v. Leigh.—G. Dickinson; T. Foulkes, W. T. Chapman.  
Rochdale Hornets v. Warrington.—W. McCutcheon; G. Dickinson, C. Gibson.  
Runcorn v. Bramley.—J. W. Whiteley; H. Ball, A. Jones.  
Salford v. Halifax.—W. W. Taylor; J. Jones, E. J. Hannaford.  
Wakefield T. v. York.—A. Smith; S. Mortimer, W. O. Smart.  
Widnes v. Broughton Rangers.—J. F. May; H. Yates, F. Turner.

\*\*\*\*

LANCASHIRE COMBINATION.  
Leigh 'A' v. Oldham 'A.'—C. Moore.  
Warrington 'A' v. Rochdale Hornets 'A.'—J. R. Lawson.

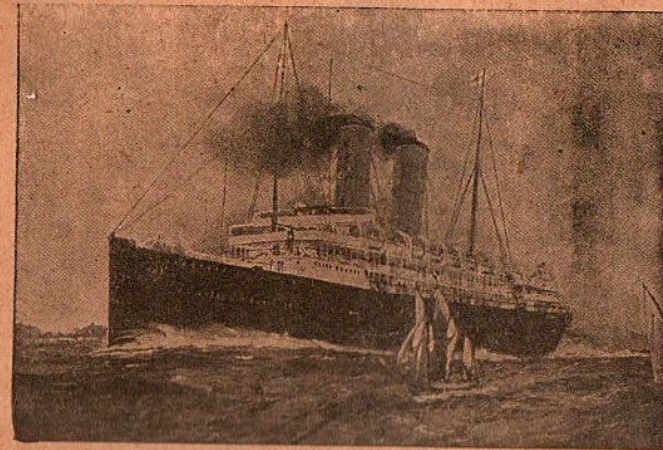
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YORKSHIRE COMBINATION.  
Dewsbury 'A' v. Huddersfield 'A.'—R. Robinson.

\*\*\*\*\*

S.E. LANCASHIRE LEAGUE.  
Heyside v. Salford 'A.'—J. E. Smith.

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