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No. 55.] Saturday, December 30th, 1911. [One Penny.

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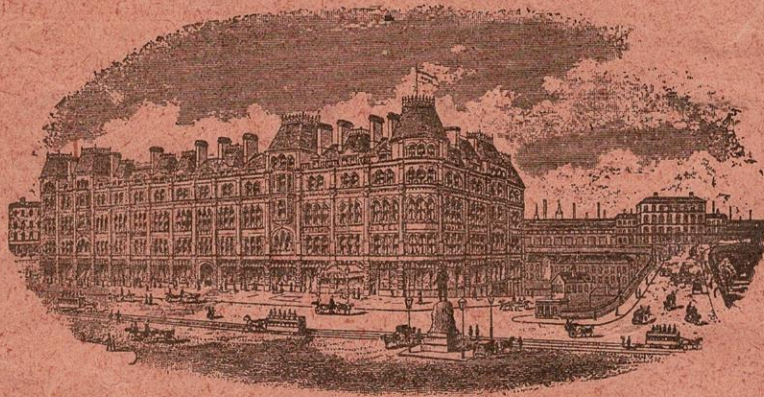
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THE NORTHERN UNION NEWS.

No. 55.]

Saturday, December 30th, 1911.

[One Penny.]

MEN AND MATTERS.

Taken all round, Northern Signs of Union football has done well Decay! financially from the holiday matches. We merely mention this matter because some little time ago, the "Times," in criticising Northern Union football, referred to our game as a spent force. There were signs of 'decay' on Boxing day, when Huddersfield took £433, Halifax £428, St. Helens £410, Hull £400, Batley £300, whilst 18,000 spectators attended the match at Headingley.

A Real Rest. Next week the Lancashire County committee will meet to select their team to oppose Yorkshire in the last county match of the season. As Cumberland have won the championship the result of the game only concerns the two counties interested. Under the circumstances, if Lancashire played a purely native team, we hold the opinion, that to the average spectator, the game would be a real test of football merit between the two counties.

The Tourists' Record. Apart from the big scoring match against Runcorn, which by the way, attracted a crowd of 4,000 to the Southport Central ground, which benefited the club to the extent of £102, the Colonials have added two other creditable victories to their big list. Now their record is 28 matches played, 22 won, 2 drawn, and 4 lost; the Colonial aggregate being 72 goals, 116 tries (492 points) to 41 goals, 49 tries (229 points).

The third Test game between The Third Test. Union side and the Australasians will be played at Villa Park, Birmingham, on Monday. As the Colonials have one success and one drawn game to their credit, the Northern Union thirteen cannot take honours, but at the same time a victory for the British team would prevent the Colonials from attaining the height of their ambition. A win for Australasia would, of course give them five points out of a possible six, and on this account a great contest is assured for Monday.

The British Team. After the satisfactory display in the second Test match, at Edinburgh, few alterations were expected on the British side. Every player did well, and considering that for thirty minutes in the second half, the British side played without A. E. Wood, their full-back, and that they prevented Australasia from obtaining the lead, the exhibition was a convincing display of British pluck. And the committee have shewn their appreciation by selecting the thirteen "en-bloc"—a rare honour in these changeable times.

The Selected Thirteen. Thus the side which we all expect will check the Colonials is—Full-back: A. E. Wood (Oldham); three-quarter backs: W. Batten (Hunslet), J. Lomas (Oldham), H. Wagstaffe (Huddersfield), A. Jenkinson (Hunslet); half-backs: F. Smith (Hunslet), J. Davies (Huddersfield); forwards: R. Ramsdale (Wigan), W. Winstanley (Wigan), B. Gronow (Huddersfield), T. Woods (Rochdale), F. Harrison (Leeds), J. Clark (Huddersfield); reserves: A. E. Avery (Oldham), B. Jenkins (Wigan).

All the men this morning are fit, and we hope to-day's games will not result in injuries.

Northern Union League.—Results up to this morning.

				Points.	Per-
	P.W.L.D.	For	Ag't.	centge	
Wigan	17	15	2	0..271	86..88.23
Huddersfield	18	15	2	1..483	134..86.11
Hull K. R.	17	13	4	0..280	127..76.47
Halifax	17	11	4	2..245	100..70.58
St. Helens	17	12	5	0..235	117..70.58
Hunslet	18	12	5	1..249	124..69.44
Oldham	18	11	6	1..272	187..63.88
Widnes	17	9	6	2..131	101..58.82
Dewsbury	18	10	7	1..247	180..58.33
Broughton	17	9	7	1..140	123..55.88
Wakefield T.	17	9	7	1..208	215..55.88
Batley	18	10	8	0..164	115..55.55
Warrington	19	10	8	1..170	167..55.26
Hull	20	9	9	2..227	191..50.00
Rochdale H.	16	8	8	0..165	188..50.00
Keighley	15	7	7	1..169	198..50.00
Leeds	18	8	10	0..211	203..44.44
Salford	17	6	8	3..150	157..44.11
Leigh	18	7	10	1..180	167..41.66
York	15	6	9	0..122	198..40.00
Swinton	17	5	9	3..122	109..38.23
Barrow	16	5	10	1..121	219..34.37
Coventry	17	4	11	2..114	314..29.41
Runcorn	17	4	12	1..102	185..26.47
Ebbw Vale	16	1	12	3..71	285..15.62
Bramley	16	0	14	2..63	423..6.25
Bradford	18	1	17	0..85	330..5.55

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE.

				Scores.
	P.W.L.D.	For	Ag't.	Pts
Huddersfield	14	10	2	1..340 119..23
Kingston R.	13	11	2	0..238 67..22
Hunslet	15	10	5	0..190 95..20
Halifax	12	8	4	0..186 79..17
Wakefield T.	13	8	5	0..158 173..16
Dewsbury	14	7	6	1..176 143..15
Keighley	13	7	5	1..154 173..15
Batley	15	7	8	0..124 102..14
Leeds	13	6	7	0..151 133..12
Hull	12	5	7	0..157 160..10
York	12	4	8	0..94 172..8
Bradford	13	1	12	0..49 236..2
Bramley	13	0	13	0..45 369..0

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE.

				Scores.
	P.W.L.D.	For	Ag't.	Pts
Wigan	12	11	1	0..182 42..22
St. Helens	14	11	3	0..193 103..22
Widnes	14	8	5	1..108 78..17
Oldham	11	7	4	0..147 100..14
Warrington	12	7	5	0..114 97..14
Broughton R.	12	6	5	1..96 92..13
Leigh	14	6	8	0..149 129..12
Salford	12	4	6	2..83 107..10
Rochdale H.	12	5	7	0..95 163..10
Swinton	13	4	7	2..92 133..10
Runcorn	14	2	11	1..56 155..5
Barrow	14	2	10	1..69 199..5

LEAVES FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

(By THE EDITOR).

ELSEWHERE I have referred to the wonderful holiday football we have experienced during the Christmas festivities. And I am bold enough to say that no doubt the games to-day and Monday will be equally surprising and at the same time interesting. These games which upset the calculations of the prophets, are particularly refreshing, for the triumphs of the lowly clubs are of much more value to them than are games won against teams who are only their equals in percentage. And as I have often said, this more equitable distribution of honours is all for the good of the game.

Record Gates.

The dismal weather on Boxing day apparently had little effect on the hardy folk of Yorkshire. Gates of £400 and upwards are returned from Huddersfield, Halifax, Hull, Leeds and St. Helens, and the visit of Dewsbury to Batley also attracted a record attendance for the Mount Pleasant ground. The Fartown figures of £433 are also a record for a League match on the Huddersfield ground. Lancashire clubs were the more unfortunate, for the rain came on earlier in the Palatine County than in Yorkshire. Notwithstanding the "gates" were much above the average, and even in the Manchester district, the two local clubs, Salford and Broughton, both did well financially from their holiday programme.

Why Not ?

Turning to another topic I have extracted the following from the Sydney "Referee," just to hand by mail:—

"The following is a synopsis of the alterations of rules proposed by the Wanganui Rugby Union to improve the playing of the game. They will be considered among the various Unions in the Dominion, and an expression of opinion asked for:—

1. That the value of a penalty goal be reduced to two points.

2. That each wing-forward play on the right-hand side of his scrum.

3. That all free kicks and kicks at goal be "free," and shall not be charged by the opposing side.

4. That in all free kicks, marks, and kicks at goal, the kicker or any other player may handle the ball, whether on the ground or otherwise.

5. That a player having possession of the ball, clear of an opponent, may pass it from any position (i.e., so long as the ball is not "held" a player may pass it, whether he is on the ground or not).

6. That the penalties of the "knock-on" in the field of play be restricted to an intentional knock-on, and to any knock-on of more than two yards.

7. That if any player outside his own twenty-five make a full kick into touch, a free kick shall be awarded against him at a point ten yards at right angles to the touch line where the ball went out.

8. That after any score by either side play be recommenced by a kick-off (place kick) from half way.

9. That there be some defined maximum duration for spells in a game.

It is hardly worth while discussing these suggestions at this stage, but they tend to show the hold the Northern Union game has round about Wanganui. The gentlemen who have given forth must have had the Northern code of rules in front of them; and, if it should by any means happen that they were brought into force, the game would be a hybrid one. Not that they would do the game any harm at all, but it only shows how improbable the suggestions are as long as the New Zealand Rugby Union is affiliated with the English Rugby Union. This is a point in my opinion, in which argument should be adduced and settled before any alteration of the rules of the game are worthy of consideration."

One need not comment any further.

(Continued on page 14).

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Notes and Notions.

(By A. S. M.)

To all my readers I heartily extend my sincere wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year. Let it be merry and bright. To the followers of football, the holiday matches are, of course, additional entertainments, and as such are looked forward to with expectations of pleasure. To the players it is a time of hard work. I should imagine they are only too pleased when their extra and arduous duties are over. True they reap additional revenue at these times, but still one can have too much of a good thing. Those players who have recently been figuring in representative matches, will no doubt feel the effects of the holiday games more severely. And it speaks well for their physical condition that they are able to withstand such a call upon their resources.

The International Law Again.

Another interesting point has arisen in respect to the above law which is now well known and understood. The case in question concerns the Hull club and a player named Schofield. I believe the preliminary details of the case have been previously commented upon, but it will perhaps be as well to refresh ones memory. It appears this player was playing Rugby Union football in England, when the Hull club "spotted" him and signed him on. It however, then transpired that he was a New Zealander, and as such, according to the present transfer law, was eligible to play with Hull with the permission of the New Zealand (N.U) authorities, or at least the Hull club desired to have his eligibility made clear.

Transfer Fee Required.

They cabled to the Dominion and received a reply that permission would be granted subject to a fee, the amount of which is immaterial so far as we are concerned. The Hull club thereupon laid the full case before the parent body for their consideration. They have no intention or desire to avoid payment of the fee, but they were of opinion that the circumstances surrounding the question were rather outside the true meaning and spirit of the transfer law referred to. Schofield did not come to this country purposely to play football. As a matter of fact he is here on a business appoint-

ment, and when same is completed he will return to his own country. But having played Rugby football out there, he naturally turned to the game here.

The Union's Decision.

The case was rather a delicate one, but the Union committee were of opinion that the New Zealand authorities were hardly justified in asking for a fee in face of the circumstances, and gave Hull permission to play him on condition they do not offer any objection to his transfer upon his return home. The law was framed—as often explained—to prevent if possible players emigrating from the Colonies to join "home" clubs, and thus weaken the constitution of the Colonial ranks. Now if Schofield plays Northern Union football here, he will on his return—if he continues to play football—of necessity play our game. Thus he will be an acquisition to the New Zealand body.

Yorkshire Superiority.

Much speculation is often evinced about the relative scoring propensities of the Lancashire teams, in comparison with their friendly rivals of the Broadacre county. I find upon totalling up the scoring columns of the two County Leagues, as they stand at present, that 150 games have been played in the Yorkshire chart, and the scores for total over 1,700 points, which gives an average per match of 11.76, whereas in Lancashire 130 games have been brought to a conclusion with an aggregate of 9.23. It is rather a difficult matter to adjudge, as taking the above figures it certainly points to a Yorkshire advantage. Yet on the other hand, if you take the individual scores against in the Lancashire table of the last three clubs, one finds a considerable difference in favour of the Lancashire clubs. This would lead one to the conclusion that the defence of the weaker clubs in the County Palatine is stronger than that of the corresponding Yorkshire clubs. This may account for the greater scoring average, and it may not. I am afraid it is an open question, and to my mind the most satisfactory way to arrive at a fair conclusion is to wait until the end of the season, and compare the scores of the inter-county League games.

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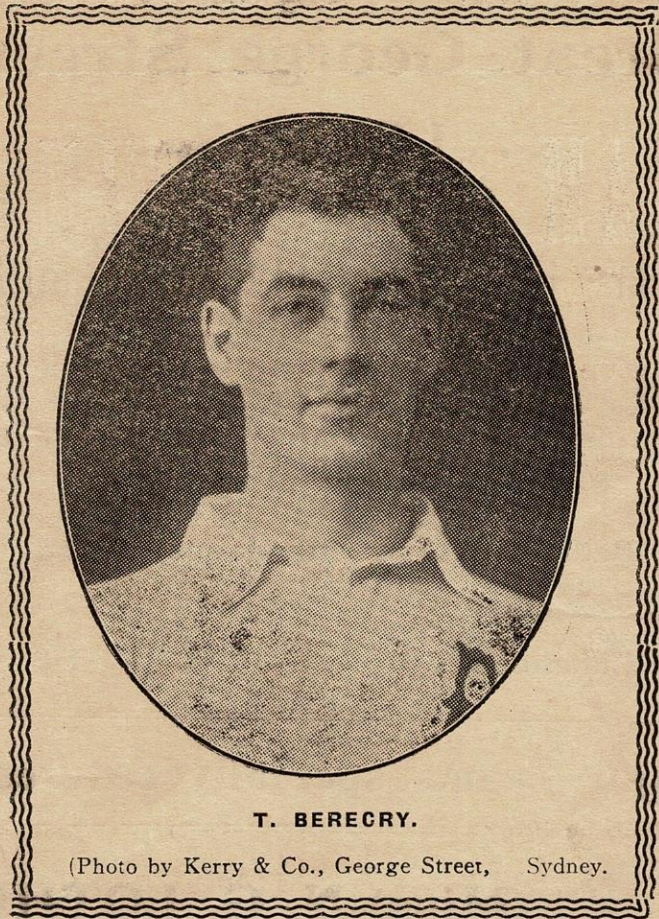
"Northern League."

SCORES AT A GLANCE.

Barrow	15-0	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5
Batley	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Bradford	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Bramley	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Broughton R.	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Coventry.	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Dewsbury.	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Ebbw Vale	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Halifax	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Huddersfield	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Hull	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Kingst'n R'vs.	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Hunslet	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Keighley	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Leeds	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Leigh	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Oldham	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Rochdale	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Runcorn	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Salford	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
St. Helens	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Swinton	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Wakefield	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Warrington	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Widnes	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
Wigan	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	
York	13-7	16-5	46-0	2-4	2-4	43-0	6-9	7-13	26-7	10-10	0-13	0-18	0-55	8-2	5-33	3-14	12-0	21-5	3-4	5-7	16-5	6-15	11-3	0-13	3-3	8-4	13-8	9-10	12-5	

Famous Australasians.

etc



T. BERCERY.

(Photo by Kerry & Co., George Street, Sydney.)

OLDHAM F.C.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME.

OLDHAM V. ST. HELENS,

- AT -

WATERSHEDDINGS, 2-45 PROMPT,

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- 3—DEANE
- 4—DAVIES
- 5—WILLIAMS
- 6—BRICE, T.
- 7—LOMAS
- 8—FERGUSON
- 9—AVERY
- 10—BIGGS
- 11—SMITH, A.
- 12—JARDINE
- 13—WRIGHT
- 14—WILTSHIRE
- 15—WHITE
- 16—BRICE
- 17—DIXON, W.
- 18—OWENS
- 19—McCABE

ST. HELENS TEAM.

- 1—TURTILL
- 2—FLANAGAN
- 3—BELSHAW
- 4—HARRISON
- 5—WYATT
- 7—SCHOLES
- 6—TRENWITH or
KELLEY
- 8—PRESCOTT
- 12—SAUNDERS
- 14—WADDELL
- 10—POPE
- 9—BUTTERFIELD
- 13—BRIERS
- 11—MAVITTY

Referee—Mr. Hestford,
Broughton.

Touch Judges:
Messrs. McGowan and
Ratcliffe.

COVENTRY TEAM.

- 1—PARKINSON, J. S.
- 2—HOUGHTON J
- 3—DAKIN, R. W.
- 4—DAVIS, H.
- 5—CASH, T.
- 6—CARTER, C.
- 7—BEYNON
- 8—HUTT, W.
- 9—HUTT, E.
- 10—TOMES, J.
- 11—BEAVER, L.
- 12—PIGOT, C. L.
- 13—OLDHAM, J. P. capt.
- 14—COOPER, P.

Referee: Mr. F. Renton,
Hunslet.

Touch Judges:
Messrs. Johnson and
Blackburn.

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OLDHAM.

Saturday, Dec. 30th, 1911.

Points		Points	
A Warrington		F Wakefield	26
Australasians		Broughton	
B Swinton	15	G Hull	39
Bradford		York	
C Rochdale Hornets	35	H Keighley	
Salford		Leeds	
D Wigan	35	J Dewsbury	
Halifax		Kingston Rovers	
E Hunslet	168	K Sheffield United	20
Widnes		Oldham Athletic	

Monday, Jan. 1st, 1912.

Points		Points	
A Test Match		F St. Helens	
Australasians		Hunslet	
B Broughton		G Runcorn	
Huddersfield		Warrington	
C Swinton		H Bradford	
Salford		Rochdale Hornets	
D Barrow		J Halifax	
Wigan		Hull	
E Leigh		K	
Kingston Rovers			

If received in time the INTERVAL SCORES of the above Games will be shown on the Score Boards.

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THE NORTHERN UNION NEWS.

Impressions of the Tourists.

No. 15—T. BERECRY, (North Sydney).

(By OBSERVER.)

TOM BERECRY is perhaps one of the most prominent of the Colonial players, by reason of his height, for he stands one inch over six feet. During the earlier games of the tour, Berecry was not called upon, and if memory serves me right I think the game at St. Helens was his first.

On that occasion he was not overburdened with opportunities—a popular failing I must admit of Colonial wings. And I saw the tall Australian in a later match, but even then he gave me the opinion that he was a straight runner.

However, on another occasion I witnessed his display when he was freely served with the ball, and I quickly gathered the idea that Berecry, with reasonable attention from his centre, would develop into a grand scoring wing.

He takes the ball cleanly, but above all I admire his determination. When he punts he follows up the advantage, and his long legs, naturally, take him over the ground quickly.

I have seen "long" three-quarter backs before, but few have been so "evenly balanced" as Berecry. He should do well and go far in Northern Union football, for he tackles well and the length of his punting is rather above the ordinary.

He was seen to distinct advantage at Rochdale, and on Monday in the big scoring match against Runcorn, Berecry made four tries.

In the official note, I find:—

"Is a centre three-quarter. Played with Grosvenor in the Junior Rugby competition in 1908. Took part in second and first grade Union football until the end of season 1910, and then transferred his allegiance to the League."

"Is an exceptionally fast strong runner, with a serviceable fend, and is a deadly tackler. Has represented New South Wales and Queensland in 1910. 25 years of age; 6 feet, 1 inch, and 12 st. 1 lb.

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Holiday Football.

(By OBSERVER).

WHEN thirty-four League games are played in four days, the constitution of the League schedule invariably shows a great change. And the present holiday season has proved no exception to the general rule, for with the exception of Huddersfield, all the leading clubs have suffered one or more defeats.

The Fartown organisation apparently stands on a pedestal of its own creation. Since we last went to press they have played three games and have scored no fewer than 107 points, making their record in the League to 483, just over two-hundred more than their next rivals for the aggregate, Hull Kingston Rovers. And as Huddersfield have extracted in addition maximum competition points from these matches, they are now only a drawn game inferior to the leaders.

Wigan's Only Slip.

Wigan would also have done well but for the bad slip at Swinton. They have captured four points out of the six, and scored 55 points against the 20 of their opponents. But the failure at Swinton reduces their percentage, and now Huddersfield must be reckoned with in a double sense, for the season's scoring points also count, should the two top clubs tie in the percentages.

Hull Kingston Rovers came to grief at Oldham, but as their nearest rivals, Halifax, Hunslet and St. Helens, also lost competition points, the Rovers retain the third position.

Oldham are clearly coming again, for in the three games their defence has only been beaten twice, whilst the attack has helped on the aggregate by 78 points—a jump which puts the team third in the scoring honours of the tournament. But Oldham are yet twenty-five per cent. behind Wigan, and a big upheaval will need to take place if one of the "first four" deciding games is to be played at Watersheddings.

Halifax Drop Down.

Halifax have fallen from their high estate with two defeats in their two League matches. They had a splendid

defensive record a week ago, but 41 points were put up by Huddersfield and Hunslet. St. Helens did exceptionally well in their games prior to the Boxing day match with Wigan. Thus valuable points were lost, but all the same the "Saints" have climbed up the chart, and as they have benefitted financially, to the tune of over £700, there will be little grumbling.

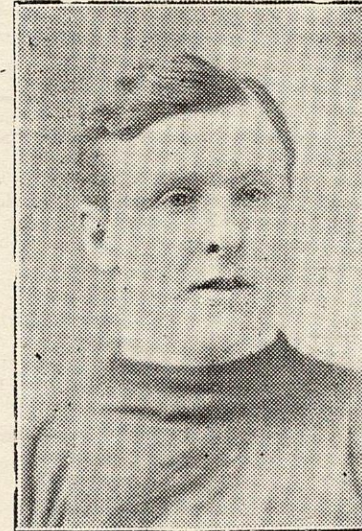
Hunslet failed at Keighley, but they extracted full points from Halifax and Leeds, and the "gate" for the latter match was well up to the average for these "Derby" days.

Widnes and Dewsbury are teams with possibilities, and both have done fairly well. Broughton Rangers spoiled their record by the home defeat against Hull, but they took a point from Salford and also trounced the Lancashire Cup holders. The "middle" teams well held their own, perhaps the best success being the clever win of Swinton's against the leaders.

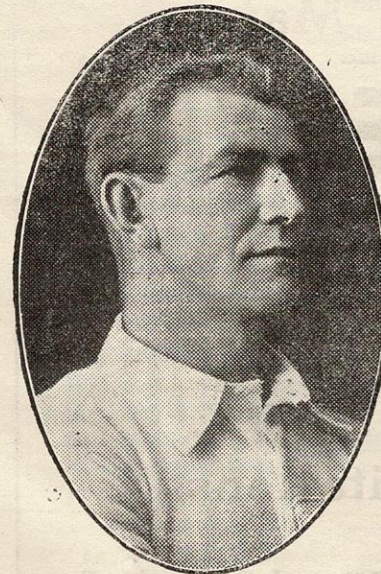
Wakefield Trinity have had a bad period, for a two points victory over Bradford was followed by pronounced defeats at home against Dewsbury, and a rout at Fartown. But I should mention that for the latter game the Trinity were but weakly represented.

I had hopes of congratulating the lowly ones on a holiday success. Barrow managed one win, but Ebbw Vale, Coventry, Runcorn, Bramley and Bradford, are still sorrowing. And "in between" their League programme, the Cheshire team visited Southport to play the Colonials, but they got little satisfaction from the trip for the Australasians put up 54 pts.—their highest aggregate of the tour. In fact, our Colonial visitors have had a right merry festive season with three successes, and an aggregate of 95 points against 17.

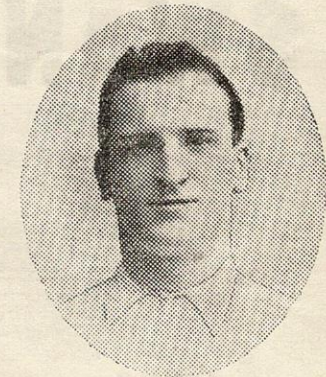
The "Northern Union News" will be sent for 10 weeks, post free, on receipt of 1/- P.O. to E. R. Swindells, 102 Fountain Street, Manchester.



G. W. SIMPSON, (Wakefield Trinity).



C. McMURTRIE,
(Australasia).



G. H. MARSDEN,
(Leeds).

M. A. P.

The "gate" at Thrum Hall for the Australasian match was the third largest of the tour.

It is stated that Will Davies, the Halifax International wing three-quarter, has returned home. He strongly resented the uncomplimentary epithets hurled at him by a section of the spectators, as he left the field, after the match at Dewsbury.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire match will be played at Thrum Hall, Halifax, on Thursday week.

Since 1901-2 season, Joe Riley, the Halifax captain has scored 358 points for his club.

The visit of Dewsbury to Batley is one of the most attractive games on the home card. To find a parallel to the Boxing day scenes, it is necessary to go back many years. Over £300 was taken in gate money, and so great was the crowd that the barricades gave way in two places.

The Swinton and Salford clubs have this season agreed to pool their "gates."

Rosenfeld, Huddersfield's Colonial wing three-quarter back, scored eight tries in the match against Wakefield Trinity.

Jackett, Dewsbury's new International full-back, kicked five successive goals in his first game for the club.

The Smoker's Match.

SWAN VESTAS



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Australasian Tour.

LIST OF FIXTURES.

	OPPONENTS.	GROUND.	COLONIAL SCORES.			OPPONENTS' SCORES.		
			Goals.	Tries.	Points.	Goals.	Tries.	Points.
1911.								
Sep. 23—	Midland & Southern Players	Coventry.....	1	6	20	1	3	11
„ 24—	Yorkshire County...	Bramhall Lane...	3	9	33	2	3	13
„ 30—	Broughton Rangers	Broughton.....	3	4	18	1	2	8
Oct. 2.—	Lancashire County.	Blackburn.....	5	5	25	3	2	12
„ 7—	Wales.....	Ebbw Vale.....	5	6	28	4	4	20
„ 11—	Widnes.....	Widnes.....	4	5	23	0	0	0
„ 14—	St. Helens.....	St. Helens.....	2	4	16	1	1	5
„ 18—	England.....	Fulham.....	1	3	11	0	2	6
„ 21—	Hunslet.....	Hunslet.....	0	1	3	0	1	3
„ 25—	Northern League...	Everton.....	2	4	16	0	1	3
„ 28—	Wigan.....	Wigan.....	1	0	2	2	1	7
Nov. 1—	Swinton.....	Swinton.....	5	6	28	3	1	9
„ 4—	Hull.....	Hull.....	4	6	26	2	1	8
„ 8—	Test Match.....	Newcastle.....	2	5	19	2	2	10
„ 11—	Oldham.....	Oldham.....	1	2	8	4	2	14
„ 15—	Leigh.....	Leigh.....	2	3	13	3	2	12
„ 18—	Wakefield Trinity..	Wakefield.....	3	6	24	2	2	10
„ 22—	Cumberl'd County..	Maryport.....	1	1	5	1	0	2
„ 25—	Barrow.....	Barrow.....	7	10	44	1	2	8
„ 29—	Runcorn.....	Runcorn.....	4	5	23	2	1	7
Dec. 2—	Huddersfield.....	Huddersfield.....	2	1	7	3	5	21
„ 6—	England.....	Trent Bridge.....	0	1	3	1	1	5
„ 9—	Salford.....	Salford.....	0	2	6	0	1	3
„ 13—	York.....	York.....	2	4	16	1	2	8
„ 16—	Test Match.....	Edinburgh.....	1	3	11	1	3	11
„ 20—	Wales and West.....	Bristol.....	4	5	23	0	1	3
„ 23—	Rochdale Hornets...	Rochdale.....	3	4	18	0	2	6
„ 26—	Halifax.....	Halifax.....	4	5	23	1	1	5
„ 30—	Warrington.....	Warrington.....						
1912.								
Jan. 1—	Test Match.....	Birmingham.....						
„ 6—	Leeds.....	Leeds.....						
„ 13—	Kingston Rovers....	Hull.....						

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T.H. (Widnes).—The New South Wales League representatives selected the Colonial team now in England. There are Northern Union clubs both in Queensland and New Zealand, but the New South Wales League are solely responsible for financial matters.

F.L. (Warrington).—Johnny Thomas was not "dropped." He has been unwell for some time, and under the circumstances his health would not permit of football.

E.B. (Pendleton).—Dai and Dan Davies are brothers. D.B. is no relation at all. There are three Davies', three-quarter backs at Halifax, so your record is hardly correct.

DOUBTFUL (Huddersfield).—The Northern Union rule is clear. The scrum-half-back must throw the ball in, and then retire behind his forwards—otherwise he is off-side.

TYKE (Leeds).—In our opinion the present team of Colonials are superior to the other two previous combinations. Their record we think, amply supports our contention.

H.L.A. (Broughton).—We rather think we have heard that point raised before. We believe the late Jim Valentine, of Swinton, was once elected captain of the Salford club, but did he ever play? We think not.

T.H. (Hull).—There are of course two ways of looking at the matter, and we think the club committee are probably justified in their action.

LEAVES FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

(Continued),

Translation of a Famous Back.

Commenting upon the latest registration of the Dewsbury club. The "Athletic News" says:—

"The translation of E. J. Jackett, the Union code to Northern Unionism must not be regarded in the light of a tremendous triumph for the latter game. The Cornubian has played for a long time, and can scarcely be expected to reproduce his form of five or six years ago, when he was first given a place in the English team.

This season Jackett had not been a regular member of the Leicester team as in the past, though he and his brother had been expected to take part in some of the Christmas matches. D. Ellwood had fallen into the position, with satisfactory results.

On the winning side Jackett will be serviceable; he is a good judge of distance, and his punting to touch will likely be useful; but he is not the same man at the feet of a powerful lot of forwards, and even in tackling he has his limitations.

Then again, has he not written as an instruction to young players how advisable it is for a full-back to let the ball bounce! If he carries the precept into practice he will hear about it at Crown Flatts.

Jackett's change of code will not create consternation in Rugby Union circles, though many will be interested to see how he fares in playing the Northern Union game."

The committee have arranged the following additional games for the Australians:—

January 17. At Huddersfield v. Northern Union.

January 31. At Wigan v. Northern League.

February 3. At Leigh v. Leigh.

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Referee's List.

The following is a list of officials appointed for the holiday matches.

Saturday, December 30th, 1911.
Coventry v. Leigh.—I. W. Whiteley (Wakefield); A. Cross (St. Helens). R. Jones (Widnes).
Bramley v. Barrow.—R. H. Jackson (St. Helens); H. Whiteley (Wakefield), S. Mortimer (Dewsbury).
Dewsbury v. Hull K.R.—G. Dickinson (Halifax); G. Kilvington (Leeds), F. Asquith (Wakefield).
Huddersfield v. Ebbw Vale.—E. Tonge (Swinton); T. Hardwick (Hunslet), D. Longbottom (Halifax).
Hull v. York.—T. Walsh (Hunslet); J. Oakland (Batley), M. Carr (Hunslet).
Hunslet v. Widnes.—T. F. May (St. Helens); T. W. Smith (Keighley), C. E. Heydon (Halifax).
Keighley v. Leeds.—H. Edmundson (Bradford); R. J. Smith (Bradford), D. Fitzgerald (Batley).
Oldham v. St. Helens.—A. Hestford (Bolton); J. Mc.Gowan (Bolton), F. Ratcliffe (Swinton).
Rochdale H. v. Salford.—W. McCutcheon (Oldham); T. Longden (Swinton) F. Turner (Warrington).
Swinton v. Bradford.—A. Smith (Halifax); J. A. Blackburn (Leigh), E. Williams (Widnes).
Wakefield T. v. Broughton R.—B. Ennion (Wigan); P. Hardwick (Bramley), J. W. Scholes (Dewsbury).
Wigan v. Halifax.—W. W. Taylor (Hunslet); J. A. Barrow (Preston), W. Manwaring (Salford).
January 1st, 1912.
Barrow v. Wigan.—W. McCutcheon (Oldham); W. Cross (Preston), J. R. Robinson (Ulverston).
Bradford v. Rochdale H.—R. H. Jackson (St. Helens); S. Mortimer (Dewsbury), T. Wainwright (Leeds).
Broughton Rangers v. Huddersfield.—R. Robinson (Bradford); H. Farmer (Runcorn), R. H. Moore (Oldham).

Halifax v. Hull.—E. H. Smirk (Wigan); W. Emmott (Leeds), T. W. Smith (Keighley).
Leigh v. Hull K. R.—W. K. Hurst (Dewsbury); T. Longden (Swinton), J. McGowan (Bolton).
Oldham v. Coventry.—H. Edmondson (Bradford); J. Johnson (Rochdale), J. A. Blackburn (Leigh).
Runcorn v. Warrington.—C. Platt (Swinton); T. Foulkes (St. Helens), A. Lee (Leigh).
St. Helens v. Hunslet.—W. H. Wood (Huddersfield); J. Entwistle (Wigan), G. Robinson (Runcorn).
Swinton v. Salford.—B. Ennion (Wigan); F. Crabtree (Rochdale), H. Ogden (Oldham).
York v. Leeds.—J. F. May (St. Helens); J. Wilson (Hull), A. Brown.

***** LANCASHIRE COMBINATION. December 30th.

Broughton R. 'A' v. Pemberton—
Leigh Shamrocks v. Swinton 'A.'—J. Winstanley (Warrington).
Salford 'A' v. Rochdale Hornets 'A.'—F. Mills (Oldham).
St. Helens 'A' v. Oldham 'A.'—J. F. Hayes (Leigh).
January 1st, 1912.
Millom v. Leigh S.—J. A. Barrow (Barrow).
Salford 'A' Swinton 'A.'—T. Austin (Wigan).
Warrington 'A' v. Runcorn 'A.'—R. J. Pye (Salford).
Wigan 'A' v. Pemberton.—J. Dulton (Warrington).
Wigan Highfield v. Broughton R. A.—G. Moore (Runcorn).
**YORKSHIRE COMBINATION.
December 30th.**
Featherstone R's. v. Hunslet.—A. Brown.

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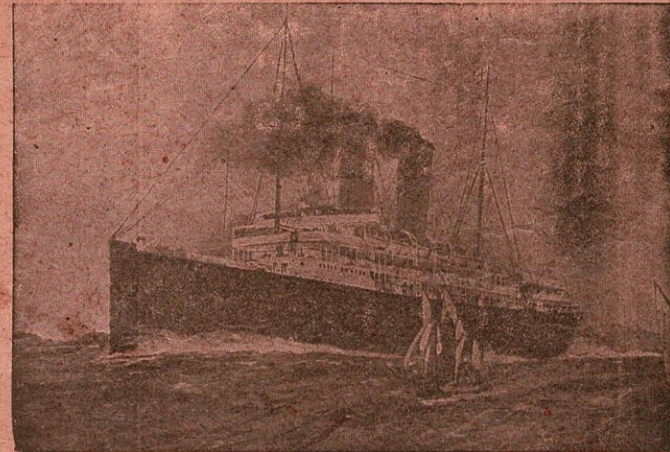


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