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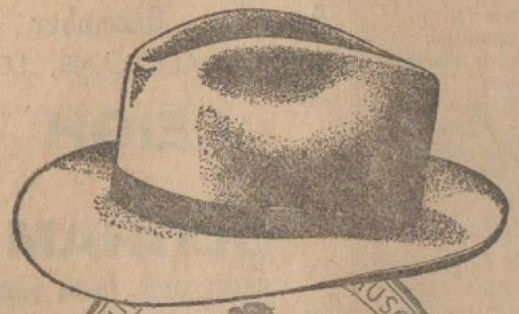

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Five wins in a row ! No wonder everyone is bucked. Those of you who travelled to Widnes and Leeds certainly had your money's worth, and something to talk about for quite some time to come. One cannot help but look at the club through rose coloured spectacles . . . . . but if they happen to lose another couple of points, for heaven's sake don't get despondent again. The lads can do so much more when they know you are behind them to the last ditch.

Soccer and Rugger have something in common at the moment . . . . . Controversy over large transfer fees. If you trot through the pages of this issue, you will find a few comments on the subject by Alf Beecroft, Rugby League Correspondent to the "People". He chats to you in a light hearted way, but I think he and other writers have some serious views about the matter. It will eventually get so much Publicity that those who control both Codes will have to do something to end it or mend it.

I noted in the Yorkshire Press a few days ago that substantial backing had been given to a tournament or knock-out scheme for the amateur clubs. It has been realised for sometime in both counties that the amateur clubs of today provide the senior players of tomorrow, but there are those who still believe that sufficient is not being done to encourage the amateurs in this county. Our own club takes a vital interest in them, and there is a good liason scheme between the club and the amateur league. Can more be done ? I respectfully suggest to the County Committee that they discuss the matter early in the New Year.

By the way, the Club has decided to form a third team. Just another example of how the Management intend to train, coach,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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and encourage every youngster who has genuine Rugby League Football in his blood.

Remember my note a few weeks ago about the try-out in Yorkshire of the "Throw-in" from the touch line ? Well, the Lancashire County Committee has also decided to experiment. From January 1st., the method will be used in "A" team games. Two of your club representatives went to a meeting in Manchester on Tuesday evening to hear the method officially explained.

Have you noticed how the terracing round the ground goes on at a steady pace. Bill Hewitt (the groundsman) and his staff, are doing quite a good job. Probably take a couple of years to put the finishing touch to the scheme ; But it will make a vast difference when the job is completed.

At the time of going to press there were still a few stand tickets left for Xmas Day game with St. Helens. Speak for them now, "or for ever hold your peace."

On your behalf, Many Happy Returns of the day to Frank Alder. To day is his twenty first birthday. We wish him well ; Both in his Private life and on the field of play.

C.I.C.

THE CHEERS THAT COUNT

When any team is away from home, the cheers that count are those of their faithful supporters who have followed them. One gathers that many a great Leigh shout has gone up during some recent away games and what a tonic it has been. We hope that all of you who can, will continue to travel to away grounds. Anything from a hundred to a thousand voices is the right sort of "Music" to spur on the "Cherry and White's"

"THE SKY'S NOT YET THE LIMIT !"
says Alfred Beecroft of "The People."

The words of the song, "the best things in life are free," may be true in some respects, but as club managements will tell you, it certainly doesn't apply to footballers. Rugby League transfer fees have soared proportionately with those of Soccer stars, but to get the man you're after you have to pay the price, no matter what your private feelings may be, and although you may moan that "at least Dick Turpin was decent about it," he did wear a mask.

I don't suppose we in the Rugby League will ever see the day when a £20,000 transfer fee is asked, or paid, but no one can tell. Years ago, we would have thought a club had gone mad in offering a hooker for sale at £2,500, yet Warrington are said to have recently paid just that amount for Fishwick from St. Helens. I don't consider the Warrington committee a set of half-wits by any means, but sheer necessity made them part with a sum, which, not so long ago, would have kept a club running for a season or so. The demand for experienced hookers exceeds the present supply, and Warrington needed an immediate replacement for veteran Dave Cotton to help keep them at the top of the League.

Your own club, Leigh, had to spend close on £5,000 for Jim Ledgard and Des. Clarkson, a figure which none of you, I'll be bound, ever dreamed of in the old Mather Lane days. Its no use any of us condemning what must admittedly be regarded as fantastic prices. In the Soccer world they think in terms of £25,000 for an English International forward. We

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content ourselves with ten per cent of that, but I don't believe we've reached the limit even yet. The clubs "in the money" (there are half a dozen of them at the most) will continue to pour it out if they find them selves hard pressed. One of these bright days I won't be surprised to read of a player being signed for £5,000, provided with a new Cadillac car, a seat on the local Council and a promise of the Mayoralty, a country mansion (loaned by the Coal Board) and a mere £50 for every match in which he plays.

As a contrast I recall the Salford team of the pre-Todd era, when a victory was a rare event, and a defeat by less than thirty points was a definite sign of improvement. One of their forwards was before the magistrates for wife maintenance arrears. He claimed his earnings were very small, but his wife declared that he played for Salford and was therefore "well off" The player agreed he played for Salford, but added "they never win," and the magistrates, who apparently had some football knowledge, must have sympathised, because they made only a small order against him. He was a few years before his time, I'm afraid !

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OUR VISITORS

When the "Cherry and Whites" went to Oldham in October, they were not the side they are now. They lost by 11 points to nil, Two of three things are different today, our form is vastly improved, the jerseys are blue ; the third—a reversal of the away results—is up to the lads. One never takes any Oldham side for granted, so we should see a lively display (weather permitting). Welcome to our visitors then, and we hope to give them "a run for their money."

"WELCOME, TOMMY CLARKSON !"

Rugby League men of the past should have memories revived at the mention of Tommy Clarkson. His appointment as coach of the "A" team is now widespread knowledge. The minute it was known the "Old Brigade" began to talk of his goal kicking prowess, of his equally famous brother, Ellis, who played for Leigh and Oldham, and of their international fame. A local Journalist, who was reporting our game when many of us were "babes at school" recounts the story of a wonderful goal kicked for England at Highbury. Tommy landed it from his side of the half way line. I suppose a number of you could all tell a story. Well here he is at Kirkhall Lane, ready to mould all our promising talent into first rate stuff. Naturally, his coming enables Emlyn Jenkins to concentrate on the senior side. "Welcome Tommy, and may your return to the 'fold' bring you many happy days. May it also add lustre and success to the lads in your charge. Good luck from us all."

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SCHOOLBOY CUP HOPES

Congratulations to Leigh Schoolboys, who in a curtain-raiser to our last home game, defeated Salford boys by 28 pts. to nil. Tries were scored by Pitchford (3), Saventi, (2) Caffrey, Gornall, and Newton, whilst Bagguley and Newton each kicked goals. We hope to see this team win the Lancashire Schoolboys' Rugby League Cup this season. In the First Round they entertain Rochdale boys at Leigh.

The draw for the local "Daily Dispatch" Schools Rugby Shield Competition resulted as follows. Home teams are named first :—

First Round :—

1.	Twelve Apostles	v.	St. Joseph's
2.	Manchester Road	v.	Plank Lane R.C.
3.	Junior Technical	v.	Leigh Church
4.	Windermere Road	v.	Sacred Heart

Semi-Final :—

5.	Winner of 4	v.	Winner of 2
6.	Winner of 3	v.	Winner of 1

Final :—

Winner of 5 v. Winner of 6

FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD

From far off Malaya comes a request for a fixture card, and an offer to play trials when the writer returns to "Blighty." Grenadier Guardsman Leslie Lawrenson, now 23, and a former pupil at Leigh Church School, writes to Mr. Ken Fletcher "I am playing for the Battalion Rugby Team (rugby union) and I am considered fairly good, I weigh 13 stone, and my height is 5ft. 11ins. I think my playing would satisfy you, or I would not trouble in asking for a chance." We suggest Mr. Fletcher sends you a copy of this programme, together with our good wishes, and a note to say that there is room in this game for anyone who can make good.

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