

# OUT-DOOR SPORTS.

## FOOTBALL.

It is stated that a Maori football team will shortly make a professional tour of Australia, and that the agreement with the team will be signed on behalf of the promoters by Victor Trumper.

Mr. G. H. Harnett, the manager of the British team which the Rugby Union is sending to tour in New Zealand, Australia, and Canada, in addressing the London referees recently, pointed out the immense difficulties that had been surmounted in getting together the party. It was a side of great possibilities, and he felt sure that it would be found capable of fairly upholding the good name of English "Rugger." The Rugby Football Union, as the pioneers of the game, was only meeting its responsibilities in sending out this side. The situation of amateurism in New Zealand and Australia made it imperative that a team should go to support the New Zealand authorities; and if the tour was something of a failure in point of victories, the blame would not be on the shoulders of the English Rugby Union. Mr. Harnett paid a tribute to the patriotism of Wales in giving the Rugby Union its support. It was a sporting mission in the great fight for the preservation of amateur Rugby in the Colonies.

The "Athletic News" is very crushing in its comments on the Anglo-Welsh team selected to tour New Zealand and Australia, as thus:—

"Our opinions regarding the side essential to tackle New Zealand in the Dominion with any prospect of making a decent fight have often been declared, and it is thus hardly necessary to state at length the extreme disappointment we feel regarding the constitution of the party. It is not our wish to give offence in this matter. The task of Mr. Harnett has not been easy. Applications to join the party were invited, and plenty of players announced their willingness to make the journey. The best of these have been chosen, but candidly, with few exceptions, the standard is far from high. Not one of the men would be chosen for a representative British team of to-day; some of the players could not find places in the second team of a first-class Welsh club; so how can the pick of the men be expected to fight successfully against New Zealand when performing in Maoriland?"

"Mr. Harnett is reported to have said that folk never can tell how a team may fare. There may be doubt in some cases; but it is evident ere they set sail what will be the fate of the Anglo-Welsh party of 1908. That fate will be unhappy. A curious situation has arisen in connection with the tour of the joint England and Wales team to New Zealand and Australia. Mr. George Harnett, who is in charge of the side, has been notified by Wilson, the Cumberland and Carlisle forward, who had been picked as one of the party, that he (Wilson) had been suspended by the Scotch Rugby Union. It is, of course, common knowledge that the Scotch and Irish Unions declined to join hands with Wales and England over the tour, the view being taken that such trifles were calculated to promote professionalism. The Scotch Union refused to give permission to any of their players to undertake the trip. It is quite a nice point whether Wilson is under the jurisdiction of the Scotch Union. Business has taken him to Scotland, and he has been playing for Clydesdale, but it is understood that he resigned his membership of that club some weeks ago, when the Scotch Union asked him to sign a form, pledging him not to go to New Zealand with the British team if selected. Wilson refused to sign, and since then he has been playing for Cumberland.

No grounds are given for the suspension, but presumably the reason is that Wilson has consented to go on a tour which is not approved of by the Scotch executive. Hitherto suspension by one union has been endorsed by the other unions, but the English Rugby Union are not at all disposed to endorse the suspension of Wilson unless a good reason for the Scotch Union's action is forthcoming. The position, as the "Daily Telegraph" justly remarks, is an intolerable one. It is sheer nonsense to

endeavour to ostracise a man who wishes to go on a sporting trip as an amateur, simply because one governing body has thrown cold water on the affair. It is imperative that the English and Welsh Unions should ask Scotland to disclose their reasons for Wilson's suspension. Wilson is one of the best forwards in the team, and his exclusion would be a distinct loss to the side.

The committee of the Scottish Rugby Union have even issued to their clubs copies of the correspondence with Thomas Wilson, the Glasgow and Carlisle player, who was included in the list of players for the New Zealand tour, and was suspended. The Scottish Union, who had forbidden Scotch players to undertake the trip, claim that Wilson is under their jurisdiction, and the final letter to Wilson states that the suspension has been confirmed by the full committee.

The captain of the last British Rugby team that toured New Zealand, D. R. Bedell-Sivright, is not likely to be seen again in international football. He hurt the muscles of his leg last Saturday when playing for Edinburgh "Varsity" against the "Academicals," and had to leave the field. The old Cantab has had his day; he has been playing international football since 1900—and in view of his accident, and his general falling-off in form, it is unlikely that he will be seen in the Scottish fifteen in the match against England this month.

Colin Gilray, the New Zealand Rhodes scholar, played an important part recently in the final match of the Oxford University Rugby team's fixtures list, which resulted in the London Scottish team being brilliantly vanquished by 29 points to 9. Gilray played a very fine game at inside left three-quarters, scoring a couple of tries (one of which was converted), and being mainly instrumental in putting in Milton and Steinthal with tries for "Varsity." The New Zealander is certainly a better man than Tarr, who has usually filled the position assigned to Gilray, and on Saturday he played his game of the season, his pace and strategy both being splendid. All going well with him in the interval, Gilray is certain to be one of the first choices when the Oxford team comes to be made up next season.

It is, by the way, rather curious that Gilray should come right out of his shell on an occasion that Oxford particularly desired her representatives to give of their very best, and against the actual team that gave the New Zealander countenance when the "Varsity" had no use for him. Gilray has played a good deal for the London Scottish this season, and was, if memory is not playing tricks, in the ranks of the "Cockney Kitties" when the Scots defeated the Oxonians by 25 points at the opening of the "Varsity" season. Now he has materially assisted in the ample revenge taken by the Dark Blues for that thrashing.

The New Zealand three-quarter back, G. W. Smith, made his appearance at Oldham last month in his new capacity as a member of the Oldham Northern Union professional team. Smith was in the three-quarter line, and played a very sound game. On one occasion he secured the ball in his own quarter, and evading a host of opponents, gave his winger a clear run in. The referee ruled the New Zealander's pass to be forward, but another break-away on the part of the Oldham backs ended in Smith scoring a try. Leeds, the opposing team, were beaten by 24 points to 5. L. B. Todd, the other New Zealander, who has joined the Northern Union, also took the field last month and helped Wigan to defeat Bradford.

The receipts at the recent Ireland v. Scotland match at Dublin just fell short of four figures. The previous record for a Rugby match in Ireland was £967.

The announcement of the death of Mr. O. Wells, which occurred in the Wellington Hospital last week, will be received with the deepest regret by all athletes, but more so by footballers, especially those of the older brigade. Orlando, as he was familiarly called, was a conspicuous figure in the football arena away back in the eighties, and first gained his spurs in 1886, while he also secured honours in 1888, 1889, and 1890. The burly figure of Orlando will well be remembered when playing for

the old Grafton Club before the district scheme came into force, and the contests between the maroons and the Ponsibly Club used to be of the keenest description, and there was no stronger partisan than the deceased. By a strange irony of fate, when the district scheme came into force, Orlando was then residing in the Ponsibly district, and was called upon to don the blue and black. The colours of his former antagonists. A little item like this, however, did not damp his ardour, and he took just as keen an interest in the game as formerly, and worked just as hard to defeat his former companions (though unsuccessfully) as he did to assist them to victory. In 1888 Orlando was found as one of the forwards chosen to play against Stoddart's English team, and at that time his weight was 14st., his companions in the pack being Messrs O'Connor, Twinnam, McKenzie, Marshall, Hobson, Keefe, and Lecky, and what a great pack it was. Few who saw the game on May 21st, 1888, will forget the intense excitement that prevailed when the Auckland forwards headed by Wells, O'Connor, and Hobson, broke away from a line out near the English 25, and, with only Paul, the English full back, to pass, a try seemed certain, when Hobson, picking up, stood still (for what seemed an indefinite time, but which was really only a second), and coolly potted a goal. Auckland also scored a try, eventually winning by 4 points to nil. In connection with the putting of the goal, an incident worth repeating, and often told by the deceased, was that, going out in the break to the match, Hobson jocularly remarked, "I feel as if I could pot a goal to-day if I got the chance," and when the chance came, Orlando, remembering his words, shouted out "pot," which he did successfully. On the field there was no more unselfish player, and it was a great boast of his that he had never scored a try, but had assisted in the getting of hundreds. He was always impressing on young players to play for their side, and not for themselves. In addition to representing Auckland on the field, he was for some time a member of the Management Committee of the Auckland Rugby Union, acting as chairman. Outside of football he was also an ardent rowing enthusiast, and rowed in numbers of races locally. The deceased leaves a widow and family, to whom I am sure all athletes and footballers generally will join with me in extending a heartfelt sympathy.

### Pro-Blacks Defeated in Sydney.

Glorious weather prevailed for the match on Saturday last between the professional team of New Zealand footballers and New South Wales under the Northern Union rules. The game took place on the agricultural ground, and there were about 15,000 present. The teams were as follows:—

New Zealand.—Buck, Turfill; three-quarters, Y'ne, Rowe, Kelly, Wrigley; halves, Barber, J. Wynyard; forwards, Mackrell, Lile, Johnson, Pearce, Cross, Wright.

New South Wales.—Buck, Hedley; three-quarters, Stantz, Messenger, Duvieux, Cheadle; halves, Rosenfield, Butler; forwards, Graves, Hennessey, Lutz, Roswell, O'Malley, Davis, Moir and Holloway.

During the first spell the New South Welshmen played the better game, there being more dash and fire in their work. The score at half-time was: New South Wales, 14 points; New Zealand, 7.

In the second half the New Zealanders played against the breeze, but did not show any form. The Blues were down on the Blacks continually, running all over them. The New Zealanders were slow in handling the ball. The whistle sounded with the final scores at: New South Wales, 18 points; New Zealand, 10 points.

### Forward Play.

By V. H. CAIRNFRIGHT,

(Captain of England XV.).

In writing an article on forward play one has to remember that each of the four countries has a distinct type of its own. For instance, in Wales, the forwards are looked on more as a machine, the sole object of which is to supply the backs with the ball on as many occasions as possible, than as an attacking force in themselves, and so they may be termed as of the "stand and heel" order. (Still I have seen Welsh forwards execute rushes that would have brought credit to

any Scotch or Irish pack).

I do not mean to say that a Welsh forward does not know how to dribble, one has only to watch that great player, A. F. Harding, to know how utterly false such a statement would be, but it is only during the last few seasons that the Welshmen have turned their attention to that phase of forward play, and as a general rule the object of Welsh forwards when they go on the field is to let their backs handle the ball as much as possible, for Wales looks to win her matches by the cleverness of her backs. And so it is in this point that a Welsh team differs so greatly from an Irish or Scotch team.

### IRISH AND SCOTCH METHODS.

In Ireland the forwards are regarded as the main-stay of the side, and, perhaps wrongly, Irish outsiders are not considered by their opponents as a powerful factor towards winning the game. Certain it is that in a typical Irish side practically all the attacking is done by the wild rushes of the forwards, which are indeed very terrifying things to backs that are not over fond of going down to the mill. It is not that their foot-work is so marvellous, in fact their dribbling is nothing like so scientific as that of Scotch forwards, but what they lack in science they make up for in the "devil" and pace with which they follow the ball. Time and again I have seen Irish forwards score after an irresistible rush the whole length of the field. And from my own experience I can say that it is a rare case to find a pack of forwards against a Welsh or Scotch eight than against an Irish eight, as you never know what they do. They are away from the scrum, and among your backs before you know where you are, and just when you think they are firing and that you are getting the upper hand, you find your own forwards swept aside and the Irishmen away in a wild rush down the field. Result, probably a try! Quite rightly, in my opinion, the New Zealanders considered Irish forward play the best they had ever seen.

Now the chief characteristics of Scotch forwards is their concerted foot-work; in this they have no equals, and were before any opponent who drops on the ball in front of them, and foolishly holds on to it longer than is necessary, or longer than the referee should allow! My advice to anyone going down to the ball in front of Scotch forwards is "get off it as soon as you can," for by doing this you will save yourself many hard knocks, and the referee the trouble of giving a free kick against you. What Scotch forwards do not know about foot-work is not worth knowing, for, as Mr. Talloch, the President of the Scotch Union, said to the South African captain after the match at the Crystal Palace, "In Scotland footwork is at its height, and we have taught our opponents to get off the ball at once!" As long as forward play is being taught at the Scotch schools as it is now, we shall always find Scotland renowned for its forwards.

Rugby football is better without such a forward. But there are times when a little extra vigour in forward play does good and saves trouble without doing any harm to anyone. My first experience against Scotch forwards was my first term up at Oxford. We were playing the Edinburgh Academicals, and Strand-Jones, the well-known Welsh full-back, was in great form, and only one did the Scotch forwards get anywhere near him. However, at the dinner after the match the general cry from the Scotch forwards was "All right, Strand-Jones, wait till Scotland meets Wales!" and sure enough Strand-Jones came back to Oxford after the match with very evident marks of the encounter on him.

Still in Rugby football one must expect hard knocks, and as long as they are given and taken in good spirit, as they nearly always are, no one is the worse for them.

And now, what shall I say of English forward play? Here, again, in treating this part of the subject, one has to bear in mind the various styles of forward play which are in existence in the different parts of England. For instance, in the north you have the robust style, which is more akin to Scotch forward play than any other style we have in England. Then again, down in the west you have another distinct style, and a style which on its day is very hard to beat. I have seen a Devonshire pack of forwards play as fine a game as I ever wish to see; for down there forwards are taught not only to use their feet in the loose work but also their hands; and when a side has eight forwards that