

ball, as the result of a nice combined movement, the excitement is intense. This time numbers prove too much for him, and he is bundled into touch in the corner with three men on top of him. However, the score is only delayed by an instant, as our half-back cleverly throws the ball to an unmarked forward, who dives over for the equalising score, and a mighty roar goes up as the green jerseys are seen walking back, while the South Africans take up their stand behind their own line. It is a long kick, and everyone waits breathlessly for the result. A quick cheer goes up as the ball is seen flying in the direction of the posts, but unfortunately for Ireland it misses the upright again by a fraction, and we are level with about six minutes to go.

The play becomes faster than ever, swinging rapidly from one twenty-five to the other and back again. The excitement increases each moment. Every man is doing his utmost, but the superior training of the South Africans begins to tell. They gradually press us back within our quarter. Then the ball goes to one of their centres. He runs across the field to the right, dodges back and finally crosses kicks to his forwards.

It falls between three of them, and they have it in their hands at once. The referee refuses all appeals for off-side. The ball reaches the left wing three-quarter, who crosses the Irish line at the corner and grounds it behind. The corner flag is knocked down, and I myself see the touch judge's flag go up for an instant, and think we are saved, but it goes down again immediately. The referee allows a try, and the match is over. Ireland has to retire beaten after a splendid fight.

It was an unsatisfactory finish to a glorious match, and I believe many of the South Africans themselves would have been content that it should have ended a draw.

No blame is attached to the referee. He decided to the best of his judgment, and the only pity is that the necessity for the decision came at such a critical moment and made such an immense difference.

We were beaten, but by no means disgraced, and my best wishes to other footballers is that they may some time have the pleasure of playing in three such glorious matches as these.

British Rugby Team.

The British amateur Rugby football team left for New Zealand to-day by the Shaw-Savill steamer Athenic. A farewell breakfast took place in the morning at the Howard Hotel, Norfolk-street, at which Mr. Rowland Hill presided. Mr. Hill was supported by Mr. A. F. Harding (captain) and Mr. George Harnett (manager), and amongst those present were the High Commissioner for New Zealand and Mr. C. Wray Palliser, the London representative of the New Zealand Rugby Union. In proposing the health of the team, Mr. Hill said the English Rugby Union had done everything in their power to induce all the unions to join in sending out a great national team, and the English and Welsh Unions were greatly disappointed when Scotland and Ireland could not see their way to lending their co-operation. Notwithstanding, the English and Welsh Unions determined to send a team. They felt that this was a time when they should give their assistance to the amateur bodies in the colonies in their fight against professionalism. This team would have a powerful effect, not only in New Zealand, but throughout the colonies that remained faithful to amateur football. The team had a great responsibility on their shoulders, and their tour would be watched with keen interest. Their tour must be not merely a pleasure trip, but a vindication of the grand old game. (Applause.) Whether they met with success or not, he should look forward to hearing that they had left behind them, wherever they went, the reputation of being a body of real British sportsmen. (Applause.)

Mr. W. P. Reeves, the High Commissioner for New Zealand, said that if his countrymen thought they were going to have "a soft thing" in meeting this team, they would wake up to discover they had made a big mistake. The team would be welcomed in New Zealand with that entire hospitality and friendliness which they deserved. Colonials had their faults, no doubt, like everyone else, but lack of hospitality had not been con-

sidered one of them. (Applause.) He not only hoped they would have a good time—he knew they would. Everyone in the country, from the Rugby Union and the Tourist Department to the newspapers, would treat them pleasantly and in the most friendly spirit. He thanked the English Rugby Union for the sportsman-like spirit in which they had taken the lead in getting together this team. He thanked them, not only as a New Zealander, but as an old Rugby player. This tour was an effort to uphold amateur football, to assert the amateur spirit, and stamp out the professional spirit. It was a great mistake to suppose that the New Zealand public had taken a turn towards professionalism. Their idea was still sport for sport's sake, and the visit of this team would do not a little to back up the union there. On behalf of his Government and fellow-countrymen, he wished the team every possible fortune and success. (Applause.)

Mr. George Harnett, Mr. Harding, and Mr. Palliser also spoke. The last-named said he thought the English and Welsh Unions had got together a splendid team, and he did not think it would be one whit the weaker for the defection of the Scotch and Irish Unions. He had seen all the men play, and he thought they would make the New Zealanders "sit up."

After breakfast, the team drove to Fenchurch-street station, whence they proceeded by train to Tilbury and embarked on the Athenic.

The complete list of the English Rugby football team is as follows: H. Archer, F. E. Clapman, W. J. Davey, R. Dibble, P. J. Down, C. Dyke, R. A. Gibbs, R. A. Green, R. B. Griffiths, A. F. Harding (captain), G. H. Harnett (manager), G. R. Hind, R. J. Jackett, F. Jackson, J. P. Jones ("Ponty"), J. P. Jones ("Tuan"), G. V. Kyrke, H. Laxton, P. F. McEvedy (vice-captain), W. L. Morgan, E. Morgan, W. J. Oldham, J. A. S. Ritson, T. W. Smith, L. S. Thomas, H. H. Vassall, G. L. Williams, J. F. Williams, and J. L. Williams.

The Scottish Union are not likely to make any friends for themselves by their action towards the New Zealand trip organised by the Rugby Union, says the "Evening Standard." Apart from the Wilson case, which showed the Scottish Union had legitimate cause for acting as they did, their attitude has been narrow and parochial in the extreme. The Scottish Union are the Little Englanders of Rugby football; they would apparently confine the game to these isles alone. There is no doubt that the New Zealanders and South Africans stimulated and vivified the sport in England. They gave the touch of variety which is charming; they showed us new methods, and exposed old fallacies. The Scottish attitude towards the colonists over here was highly diverting, and possibly they have never forgiven themselves for it. The Irish Union blindly accepted the lead of the Scottish, but already there are signs of their relenting. The English and Welsh Unions have looked at this trip from an Imperial aspect, which has much to commend it.

BOWLING.

Mr. Waddell, president of the Dominion team, and who represented New Zealand at the recent bowling conference in Sydney, expresses the opinion that much good should result from this bowling parliament. The two prime matters in dispute were the vexed questions of green length and delivery from the mat, and both have been amicably settled, Victoria being the only dissentient spirit to a general arrangement. Representatives from every Australian State and New Zealand were present, and the voice of all except one was raised in favour of a green for future Inter-State and Inter-colonial matches measuring not greater than 120ft. in length. In Victoria many of the greens are as long as 160ft., and this length places visiting teams from other States at a considerable disadvantage, wherefore the shorter and uniform length was decided upon. It is contended—and reasonably so—that finer play is induced by the shorter length, as it tends to develop wrist instead of elbow play. In New Zealand very few of the greens exceed 130ft., while a great number of them are no more than 110ft. in length. The Victorian delegates were instructed not to agree to anything less than 130ft., and therefore refused to consent to the shorter length decided upon. But as persistence on Victoria's part will only result in the exclusion of Victoria from Inter-State arrangements, she will, as

Mr. Waddell opined, probably see fit to fall into line.

The moot question, which has been the chief bone of contention between Australian and New Zealand bowlers heretofore, has also been satisfactorily settled, and in a way that must appeal to all fair-minded enthusiasts of the "wood" as being equitable. The New Zealand method of requiring only one foot to be on the mat is open to serious objections when a team is met that rigidly respects the bowling line that the mat, and the mat only, is the place from which the bowl should be delivered. And in recognition of this, New Zealand conceded to Australia the future obligation of both feet on the mat. The mat has been increased in length for Inter-State and Inter-colonial matches to a minimum of three feet in length by twenty-two and a half inches wide, the maximum being four feet six inches long by twenty two and a-half inches wide.

Mr. Waddell, when he returns, will recommend to the New Zealand Council the adoption of these regulations.

Dominion Team in Auckland.

The six-rink match between the Dominion team of bowlers and representatives of the Auckland clubs at Devonport on May 4th, resulted in the downfall of the local men by 144 points to 109, the tourists winning substantially on four of the six rinks, the Auckland quartet, skipped by Wright, being the only Northern team to settle their opponents. The closest contest of the afternoon took place between the teams skipped by Waddell and Wakerley, the scores at the 21st head being 17 all. At the finish of the match the Dominionites gave their war cry in rousing style, and made flattering references to the evenness of the Devonport Green, which was generally spoken of as being the pick upon which they had played. The individual scores were as follows:—

	D.	A.
Dominion Team—Stubberfield, Gibson, Findlay, Waddell (skip), v. Auckland—"Reps."—Mennie, Watkins, Burns, Wakerley (skip) ..	17	—
Dominion—MacGibbon, Snytlife, Johnston, Bishop (skip), v. Auckland—Presley, V. Casey, Brown, Wright (skip) ..	15	—
Dominion—Maynard, Gee, Cottman, Goldstone (skip), v. Auckland—McLudoe, Parsons, Ashton Brookes (skip) ..	33	—
Dominion—Newre, Galbraith, Bastings, Hain (skip), v. Auckland—Gib, G. V. Court, Ellisdon Kilgour (skip) ..	28	—
Dominion—"Chagwin", Broad, Thompson, Bentley (skip), v. Auckland—Wrayte, Short, Hemus, Harvey (skip) ..	26	—
Dominion—Bunting, Martin, Manning, A. P. Smith (skip), v. Auckland—M. Casey, Miller, Veale, Wilson (skip) ..	25	—
Totals ..	144	109
Majority for the Dominion team, 35.		

On May 5 the Dominion bowlers played a match against the Auckland "All White" touring team that visited Australia earlier in the season. The scores were as follows:—

DOMINION V. AUCKLAND TOURING TEAM.

A WIN FOR AUCKLAND.

At 10 o'clock sharp last Tuesday morning the members of the Dominion and Auckland touring teams foregathered on the Auckland green to try conclusions, the visitors being briefly welcomed by Mr. J. Carlaw on behalf of the Aucklanders. Mr. Waddell replying for the Southerners.

The scores were as follow:—

	D.	A.
Dominion Team—Bunting, Martin, Manning, Newre (skip), v. Auckland—Touring Team—Arey, Cullitt, G. Court, McIntosh (skip) ..	17	—
Dominion—Stubberfield, Gibson, Johnston, Waddell (skip), v. Auckland—Miller, Murray, Wooler, Rankin (skip) ..	8	—
Dominion—Newre, Galbraith, Bastings, Hain (skip), v. Auckland—McCallum, Mewburn, Findlay, Eves (skip) ..	34	—
Dominion—McDonald, Snytlife, Cottman, Goldstone (skip), v. Auckland—Byrdon, Michaels, Laurie, Hutson (skip) ..	20	—
Dominion—"Chagwin", Broad, Thompson, Bentley (skip), v. Auckland—Shadrack, Robertson, Condie, Harrison (skip) ..	17	—
Dominion—McGibbon, Gee, Findlay, Bishop (skip), v. Auckland—Schlager, Sumner, Carlaw, Hamcock (skip) ..	36	—
Totals ..	112	130
Majority for the Auckland Touring Team, 18.		

At the conclusion of play the two touring teams lined out on the green and gave each their war cry, following which the Mayor (Mr. A. M. Myers), as president of the Auckland Association, and as mayor of the city, expressed the pleasure it had given the bowlers and citizens of the northern town to welcome the Dominion team. Each team had won a match, and although it mattered little which side won so that the game was a good and keen one in friendly rivalry, it was pleasant to know that honours were somewhat even, and next year perhaps an invasion would be made from the North into Southern bowling territory. After congratulating the visitors upon their successful tour, he expressed the hope that they would return with pleasant memories of their short sojourn in Auckland, and next time he hoped it would be longer. Cheers were then heartily exchanged, and the bowlers adjourned to the pavilion, where the Auckland Touring Team entertained them at luncheon. The ladies of the visiting team were taken in hand by the wife of the Auckland Club's president, Mrs. Mennie, and the other ladies of the local bowlers, while the arrangements generally were of the most satisfactory nature.

The Dominion bowlers arrived at Napier by the Wimmera on May 8th, and during the morning played a five-rink game with local players, suffering defeat by 22, the scores being:—Napier 108 Dominion Bowlers 86.

The Dominion team of bowlers arrived by the Wimmera at Gisborne on May 8. They were met and welcomed by the Mayor and Presidents of the local bowling clubs. In the afternoon a match was played with the local bowlers, and resulted in a win for the Dominion team by 113 games to 92.

HOCKEY.

The hockey season in Auckland was opened on Saturday last, when the grounds at Remuera presented a charming spectacle. The weather kept fine till late in the afternoon, and there was a good turn-out of spectators, in addition to over 200 players, all wearing their club's colours. In the course of the day, afternoon tea was served. The play included senior and junior tournaments, ladies' tournament, and a number of races and other sports. The finals in two events had to be postponed till next Saturday. The whole day's proceedings were most enjoyable, and the enthusiasm displayed is a good augury of a successful season.

Hockey is exceeding flourishing in Wellington, the last annual report discloses the fact that the number of teams competing last season was twenty-four—five senior, ten junior, and nine third class—the contest for senior honours being unusually keen and close. The Ferry Company is making two new grounds at Day's Bay, and the committee has been able to secure a ground for the season at the Athletic Park, owing to the Rugby Union going to Miramar for its games. This is held to be a memorable event, at it presents the first opportunity afforded of playing regularly in the city, and will have a good effect upon the game, which cannot easily be over-estimated. The financial position has improved somewhat since the last annual meeting. The bank overdraft has been reduced from £25 6/- to £12/9/9, and it is hoped that this deficit may be wiped out by the end of the season. The expenditure totalled £119 8/9, of which £50 was for rents of grounds and £47 5/0 for upkeep.

As against the contention that prohibition of the liquor traffic has resulted in the rates at Ashburton being reduced by 3d. in the £1, it is asserted that the real reason for reduction of rates in that borough is the increased rental from the reserves belonging to the borough which were recently held by Messrs. Campbell and Co. along with the Okekaika Estates, which has just been acquired by the Government. These reserves have just been relet at a very much increased rental, and if no license had not been carried the reduction in rates would have been still greater.