

Stephenson obtained the ball near the touch line, and sent across in front of Auckland's goal where a scrum resulted. Otago continued to attack, and kicked the ball over the line, a force resulting. In play again the blue had for a time the upper hand, and again the ball was carried over Auckland's line, and Harrison forced only just in time.

From the kick out play centred, and the Auckland forwards put in some good work, but their efforts were nullified by the fine kicking of the Otago backs, and a rush by the blue forwards ended in Auckland again forcing. On resuming Auckland took a turn at attacking, and for some minutes kept Otago very busy defending. Stephenson by a good kick brought temporary relief, but the blue and white forwards soon had the ball back. From a line out just outside Otago's 25, the ball was thrown in to Irvine, who was unmarked, and he dashed through and then passed to Tyler, who beat the Otago full back by feinting to pass, and fell over the line just as he was tackled. A. Wilson was entrusted with the shot at goal, but his effort was rather a poor one, the kick lacking both direction and strength.

The score seemed to rouse the blue and whites, for the next ten minutes the blues were kept very busy defending. A force only brought temporary relief, as the Auckland forwards immediately rushed the ball back, and then Kiernan started a nice run, and passed to Riley, who in turn transferred to McPike. The latter player had a really good chance of scoring a try, but preferred to pot, making a very poor attempt, the ball striking an Otago forward, and rebounding up the field. A couple of minutes later half time was called.

Soon after play restarted, Burt, one of the blue forwards, injured his ankle, and had to retire, his place being taken by Adamson. For some ten minutes the play was of an even and unexciting nature, consisting of a series of line outs and scrums. The blue and white forwards then got on a very dangerous rush, which was only just stopped in time. Then Kiernan was all but over, but the ball was knocked out of his hands and rolled over the line. Doran dived for it, but the goal post was in his way, and what seemed a certain try resulted in a force.

On resuming Otago carried the ball to the Auckland twenty-five, and the blue backs getting on some nice passing runs began to look very dangerous. On one occasion McKenzie crossed the line, but Kiernan prevented him grounding the ball, and a scrum five yards out took place. The local forwards relieved the pressure, and carried play to the centre. Otago again attacked, and a lot of touch line work ensued. From a throw in, in Auckland territory, the ball was passed out to Armstrong, who transferred to Duncan, who in turn passed to Booth, and the latter to McKenzie, who ran over Donovan, and scored in a fair position. Wallace failed in his attempt to convert, the ball going about a yard wide.

Having evened matters, Otago made great efforts to obtain the lead, and for some minutes they kept up a strong attack. Then the Auckland forwards, headed by Doran, removed the play to the opposite twenty-five. At this stage Auckland again looked like scoring, the ball being carried right up to the Otago goal line, but the effort failed, and the blues shortly afterwards removed the play to a less dangerous quarter. Line play was again the order of the day, and at this Auckland showed superiority, and the ball was gradually worked back to the blues' twenty-five, but good kicking by the Otago backs removed play to the centre. During the remainder of the spell the play was of a very even nature, though it was not of a very exciting character. Just before time Duncan forced Auckland by a hard kick, and that was practically the last incident of the game.

It cannot be said that the game was as interesting as the Wellington-Auckland match, at all events from the spectators' point of view. This is accounted for by the fact that the play was confined to a large extent to the forwards, the backs mostly confining themselves to kicking. On the whole the teams were very evenly matched, and although on the opportunities that offered Auckland ought to have won, it cannot be said that they had any the better of the general play.

It was generally held that the Auckland backs would prove stronger than

their opponents, but such was far from being the case, the Southerners having the advantage in back play. In no department was their superiority so marked as in kicking, and in this respect the blue and white backs failed most conspicuously, and it was quite the exception for one of their kicks to find the line.

Of the Otago backs, McKenzie, at three-quarter, and Wallace, at half, were the most prominent, the first-named gaining Otago's try in nice style, and both he and Wallace kicked splendidly right through the game.

Adams at full played a steady, safe game, and Stephenson did likewise at three-quarter.

Duncan was disappointing. We were led to believe that he was as good as ever, but on Saturday he certainly was not the Duncan of old, and he appeared to be endeavouring to make up for the loss of his former brilliancy by pointing and playing "cunning." He was certainly lucky to escape being penalised on many occasions. Still it must not be thought that he played a poor game, for such was not the case, and had it been anyone whose reputation was not so good, he would have been said to have played a fair game.

On the Auckland side the only back who played up to form was Kiernan, and right through he played a really fine game, his defence work being especially sound, though his kicking was not up to his usual standard. "Dick" McGregor, at centre three-quarter, was next best, but failed to show his best form, but then he was handicapped by a kick on the leg, which rendered him very lame. Riley, at five-eighths, at times did good work, and his tackling was first rate, but he was most erratic in his taking and passing.

Both Harrison and McPike played a lifeless kind of game, and, though neither of them made any bad mistakes (barring McPike's shot at goal), they did nothing of note. In Harrison's case especially the difference in his form in this match and the Wellington game was most marked. I should have liked somebody to have given them an electric shot every now and then just to waken them up a bit.

The weakest man, however, of the Auckland backs was Donovan at full, and his display was certainly of the most feeble description. It was always considered that no matter how weak he was in some respects his tackling was beyond criticism, but after the way he allowed McKenzie to score on Saturday, even that claim must be denied. I have for the past two seasons contended that Donovan was not class enough for a "rep," and Saturday's game more than ever confirms me in that opinion.

Although Otago had the advantage of an extra forward, and their men were also considerably heavier than the Auckland vanguard, still the locals more than held their own in this respect, having the advantage both in the pack and in the loose. Their rushes, however, were generally nullified by the good line-kicking of the Otago backs. In line play the blue and whites also showed to advantage, though now and then the blue vanguard came through with a good rush from the line, but this was generally the result of a crooked throw-in by Duncan.

In the open Doran was the most conspicuous of the Aucklanders, and he certainly gave a very fine display, and had hard luck in not scoring on at least one occasion. A. Wilson, McGregor and Tyler were about the best of the scrummers, but every man in the Auckland forward ranks played a good game.

The Otago forwards hardly proved up to expectations, but still they were a really good and even lot. It is extremely difficult to pick out any individual as having especially distinguished himself, but, taken right through, McKewen was perhaps the most noticeable.

Mr. G. Symes had charge of the whistle, but he was hardly up to his usual form, and missed a good deal of off-side play and deliberate breaches of the rules. I never quarrel with a referee for overlooking trivial and unintentional breaches of the rules, but on the other hand a referee cannot be too strict on some points, especially where foul play is concerned.

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GOLF NOTES.

(By Bogey.)

The steady down pour of Friday night and Saturday morning precluded all thought of completing the matches commenced a fortnight ago, and the committee, in order to save the tees and greens from injury, again closed the links for play. The matches were adjourned to Saturday, 8th September, when it is to be hoped Captain Edwin will arrange better weather for us.

I have been experimenting with a varnish for iron clubs, which coats the club head with an invisible transparent surface and prevents rust. The American made iron clubs of the Bridgport Gun Implement Company, when they come here, are covered with a bright varnish which thoroughly prevents rust when in stock, and which lasts a very considerable time, even when the club is played with. Messrs E. Porter and Co. kindly supplied me with a bottle of Silico enamel, and I can, after using it for some time on iron clubs, thoroughly recommend it as a rust preventer in damp weather. For keeping clubs clean during a sea voyage it should be invaluable. The club is thoroughly cleaned, and the enamel spread over the head with a brush, the enamelled surface being hard and ready for use almost at once. By concussion the enamel gets gradually broken up on the hitting spot of the face of the club head, but the socket and back of the club, the parts which are always the most liable to turn rusty, remain in good order for a very long time. The enamel will stand washing, but if one desires to remove it a rub with methylated spirits leaves the club ready for a fresh coat. On wet afternoons, when some iron clubs rust in a few minutes, the enamelling is well worth the little trouble necessary to apply it. It is, of course, a well-known fact that some iron clubs rust in half the time it takes their neighbours to do so. This is on account of the different qualities of iron used in manufacture. I have found the drop forged steel heads much less susceptible to rust than the hand wrought iron ones.

The Auckland Club has suffered the loss of a good official by the departure of its hon. treasurer, Mr F. E. N. Crombie, for England. For the past two years Mr Crombie has fulfilled his duties in a most satisfactory way during a troublesome time of the Club's ex-

istence. Though not a player, he was constantly on the links, and at the club-house, looking after various matters. The members of the Club, to show their appreciation of his services, presented him with a handsome set of pipes and amber and gold mounted cigar and cigarette holders. The presentation was to have been made at the club-house on Saturday afternoon, but owing to the weather this was impracticable, and the presentation was made to Mr Crombie by the Captain of the Club, Mr M. A. Clarke. Mr Crombie leaves for England in the Gothic.

WELLINGTON.

A few more matches have been played in the Daniel's Cup competition. Arthur Duncan beat G. Todd; McEwen beat Cadogan; Dr. Gow beat Coom; Howden beat Kirky.

Very few of the ladies have been able to get away for the championship at Christchurch. We expect to see Mrs Arthur Pearce well to the front.

CHRISTCHURCH.

August 29, 1900.

The match with Timaru, of which I wrote you last week, resulted in the home team winning the singles, and the Christchurch Club the foursomes. The greens, I understand, were not in the best of order, and as our men were strange to the links, the win in the foursomes was very creditable. Mr O'Rourke showed fine form against the Timaru champion, doing the round in 90. Mr Somerville, however, was playing his very best, and actually lowered his own record for the links to 87 in the match, his previous best being 89. It will thus be seen that the Christchurch men had a very tough customer to deal with. Most of the other Christchurch men had not had much experience of foreign competitions, and with the exception of T. D. Harman, they all suffered defeat in the singles. It was to be regretted that Christchurch could not send a stronger team, but several men found it impossible to get away. It is generally admitted, however, that sooner than allow annual matches of the above description to fall through, it is better to send a team, even though it be not the best available. The following are details of the matches:—

CHRISTCHURCH V. TIMARU.

Singles: R. Somerville (T) beat E. D. O'Rourke (C) 4 up; C. A. Jefferson (T) beat T. D. Harman (C) 4 up; C. Treweek (C) beat H. Wright (T) 1 up;