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ALES.

# PASTIMES.

[BY VIGILANT.]

### FOOTBALL.

WELLINGTON FOOTBALL TOUR. August 18—Taranaki, at New Plymouth August 22—Auckland August 27—Hawke's Bay, at Napier

OTAGO FOOTBALL TOUR.

August 26—Oamaru August 29—Canterbury September 1—Taranaki (at Hawera) September 5—Aucklaud September 9—Hawke's Bay \* September 12—Wellington

QUEENSLAND FOOTBALL TOUR

Thursday, August 18—Wellington.
Saturday, August 15—New Zealand match, at Wellington.
Thursday, August 20—Canterbury, at Christchurch
Saturday, August 22—Otago match, at Dunedin.
Tuesday, August 25—Southland, at Bluff.

### AUCKLAND v. QUEENSLAND.

Auckland win by 9 points-The Queenslanders play well-The slippery ground in favour of Auckland-Queenslanders good on defence-McCowan, D. J. Nelson, Rundle, and Evans good men-Milne and McCowan score for the visitors—Auckland's play not up to expecta-tion—Wilson, Braund, McLean, and Absolum score—Difference in reading rules — Referee Symes decides correctly on our rules — The N.Z. team—Four Aucklanders selected.

The first outside match of any note this season was that of last Saturday between the chosen fifteen of Queensland and the Auckland representatives at Potter's Paddock, Epsom. The weather in the morning was wet and dirty, but, as the hour of play approached, eased up a good deal, and at 2 o'clock a fine afternoon was certain. Encouraged by the promising outlook, and the expectation of a good game, some five thousand en-thusiasts and followers of the game visited the deciding ground, only, however, to meet with a certain amount of disappointmen on the latter score. The home team won, and of course this gave a measure of satisfaction, though the game all through was not by any means as interesting as had been anticipated. The visitors were a fast, willing lot, and strong in defence, but this was counterbalanced by the undeniable weakness in passing tactics --- a department of the game on which success generally hinges. In this respect they were far and away below what I had been led to expect from them; and times out of number chances that might have resulted successfully, had they shown the necessary skill, were thrown away by ill-directed or erratic passing. But they have not yet been seen at their best, and I feel confident that, if they take the necessary care of themselves, they will improve as they go on through the colony. The local players' exhibition in the back divison was decidedly disappointing, but their forwards worked in good style, and proved themselves a clever lot, beating the visitors for the ball four times out of six and doing good work in the open. The cause of the weak display amongst the rear rank is due in a great measure to the faulty play on the part of Elliott at five-eighths. Often he could not take the ball at all (though it must not be forgotten that he never could take the oval when it came out with anything like pace—and it did sometimes on Saturday); but for this I do not blame him as much as for what he did do with it on the occasions on which he was successful in securing it. Time after time he either rushed into the thick of his opponents before attempting to transfer it to his three-quarters, and at others his pass was ill-directed, and more than one chance of adding to the score was lost. Mr Geo Symes, of Hawera, acted as referee, and the teams were as under :-

QUEENSLAND (maroon).—R. McCowan, full-back; D. J. Nelson, W. J. Rundle, and H. Hawkins, three-quarters; W. Evans, five-eight; E. Currie, half-back; S. Cockeroft (captain), J. Higginson, F. Pollard, W. H. Austin, W. H. Tanner, H. Scarr, D. Milne, forwards; R. Nelson and Doyle, wing forwards

and Doyle, wing forwards.

AUCKLAND (blue and white).—R. Masefield, full-back; F. Surman, D. Clayton, and H. Absolum, three-quarters; W. Elliott, five-eight; A. Braund, half-back; C. Brady, J. Swindley, Wilson, F. Murray, J. McLean, D. Gallagher, S. Brown, forwards. J. Mills and Leign wing. S. Brown, forwards; I. Mills and Laing, wing forwards.

The Play.-First Spell,

The Queenslanders won the toss, and opened with a strong breeze and the sun behind their backs, from the western goal. Murray kicked off for Auckland, and the local players proceeded to force things, in spite of the wind, right from the jump. The forwards got the ball out of the scrum nearly every time, and two or three nice dribbling rushes by this

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