

THE FOOTBALL WORLD.

BRITISH TEAMS' PROGRAMME.

IN NEW ZEALAND.

June.

- 6—NEW ZEALAND, at Dunedin
- 10—South Canterbury Union, at Timaru
- 13—Canterbury Union, at Christchurch
- 17—West Coast and Buller Unions, at Greymouth
- 20—Nelson and Marlborough Unions, at Nelson
- 27—NEW ZEALAND, at Wellington

July.

- 1—Hawke's Bay Union, at Napier
- 4—Poverty Bay Union, at Gisborne
- 8—Manawatu and Horowenua Unions, at Palmerston
- 11—Wanganui Union, at Wanganui
- 15—Taranaki Union, at New Plymouth
- 18—Auckland Union, at Auckland
- 25—NEW ZEALAND, at Auckland

IN AUSTRALIA.

August.

- 5—New South Wales, at Sydney.
- 8—New South Wales Team for England, at Sydney.
- 12—Western Union, at Bathurst.
- 15—Metropolitan Union, at Sydney.
- 19—Northern Union, at Newcastle.
- 22—New South Wales, at Sydney.
- 26—Queensland, at Brisbane.
- 29—Queensland, at Brisbane.

September.

- 2—Queensland, at Brisbane.

Saturday proved an ideal day for football, and, notwithstanding the fact that the Auckland Racing Club's Great Northern meeting was in progress, a fairly large number of enthusiasts journeyed to Alexandra Park to witness the match between the Ponsonby and University fifteens. It was fully anticipated by followers of the Rugby game that victory would rest with the powerful blue and black combination, and such proved to be the case, the Ponsonby men scoring a somewhat easy win. The weighty blue and black forward division were far too solid for their lighter opponents, and the light blues put up a plucky fight under the circumstances, particularly the backs, who at times showed great resourcefulness in countering the Ponsonbyites' determined efforts to score. Though the Ponsonby pack is composed of some real top-notchers, it is evident that the weakness of the formation lies with the front-row men, whose inability to hook the ball from the scrum was a most noticeable feature in Saturday's match. The University pack was successful time after time in beating their burly opponents for the ball in the scrum, while being ably supported by a clever set of backs, the light blues generally managed to make the best of all their opportunities. The Ponsonby forwards, taken right through, were responsible for a willing display, their sweeping rushes being a treat to watch, and to their clever tactics must certainly be accredited the fruits of victory. The Ponsonby backs cannot by any means be said to have given as good an exhibition as the chances afforded them called for, and had they rendered a good account of themselves the score could not have failed to have been higher.

Ponsonby winning the toss took advantage of having a strong sun at their backs. For some considerable time after the commencement of the game the students worked hard in their successful efforts to keep their opponents from scoring, and the greater part of the first half was over before Hall succeeded in registering Ponsonby's first try. The kick at goal failed. Now that the blue and blacks had placed a score to their credit, they appeared to get to work with renewed vigour, the result being that Nicholson got over University's line twice in succession. Both attempts at goal failed, and when half-time was called the score stood: Ponsonby, 9 University, 0.

The second spell proved fairly exciting, play being of a fast character. The Ponsonby men began to wear down the students, and Francis, as the result of a creditable piece of work, notched a try. No goal resulted. Later on Carlaw obtained possession of the ball from a scrum, and, dodging through the light blues, scored. The attempt at goal proved fruitless. Though University, as the outcome of some heady play, looked like obtaining a certain score, the chance was nipped in the bud. Before the call of time Ponsonby obtained a further try, Cunningham breaking over the students' line. No goal resulting, the game ended: Ponsonby, 18 Varsity, 0.

The Ponsonby forwards acquitted themselves creditably, Francis particularly being worthy of individual mention. Gillett, on the wing, played well throughout, but did not shine out so prominent as usual.

Of the backs, McDonald, at half, was not altogether a success. Webb, at five-eighths, was responsible for some tricky work at times. Bater played below his usual form, but was responsible for a rather clever piece of work just on the call of time. Carlaw made few mistakes on the threequarter-line, and at times showed some of his old time dash.

The University forwards were outclassed, but made a good stand under the circumstance. Bamford and Paterson especially putting in some hard graft. Wilkes, on the wing, was always prominent, and displayed a good deal of cleverness.

Of the University backs, W. Gray gave a highly creditable exhibition for so youthful a player. Alan Gray took a hand in a good part of the work, and shone out at times. Wilson was patchy, but now and then put in some smart work.

On No. 2 ground Newton met Grafton, and the game was well contested from start to finish. Grafton livened up from the start, and up till about half-way through the first spell kept the Newtonites busy defending, but were unable to register a score. The red and whites then took a turn at attacking, but the Graftonites soon shifted play into Newton's territory again, where matters remained until half-time was called without any score.

The second spell provided a far more interesting exhibition of football than in the first, play being opened up by both teams. Newton, however, were successful in drawing first blood, Wolfgram securing a clever try. No goal resulted. Grafton being awarded a free kick, Eaton landed a good goal, which, however, was disallowed on account of the ball having been touched in its flight by a Newtonite. Grafton then set to work properly, Marshall obtaining possession of the ball dashed over and registered the black and whites' first try. Eaton piloted the ball over the crossbar. Victory now looked as if it lay with the Grafton men, but the Newtonites, strongly attacking, were able to score two more tries before the call of time. Neither of them were converted, and the match ended: Newton, 9; Grafton, 5.

The Newton forwards were a fairly good lot, and kept hard at it all the time, the most prominent being Freeman and Duval. "Pliny" Lewis' weight proved a boon in the scrum, but want of form prevented him from giving a good display.

Of the backs, Wolfgram played solidly, and rendered no end of service to his side.

Of the Grafton forward division the hard grafters were the famous trio, Pople, McGuire, and Eaton, all of whom played serviceable games.

Of the backs, Kiernan showed some of his old form, and was responsible for a large amount of cleverness.

Marshall, at centre-threequarter, made a good display, while Edwards was a great help to his side.

On the Devonport football ground the City and Shore teams played an uninteresting game, the former securing an easy victory over the local men. An even game was looked forward to, it being generally anticipated that the Shore men would put up a good fight, but the match, however, proved very one-sided. The green and white forwards played far below their usual form, while on the other hand the City team kept matters busy from start to finish, grasping every opportunity that presented itself. City won the toss, and elected to play with the sun behind them. The black and reds made the game willing from the start, and in the first spell tries were scored for them by Walsh (2) and R.

Magee, one of which was converted by S. Magee, half-time sounding with the score: City, 11 North Shore, 0.

The second spell saw the City men showing far superior tactics to the green and whites, who were placed on the defence nearly the whole of the time. Though the Shore men were successful in carrying play into City's 25 on several occasions, their efforts to score always proved fruitless. Waddell broke over from a scrum and registered another try for City, the major points being added by R. Magee. The City men continued to pierce the Shore's defence, and tries were obtained in turn by Gladding and Little, both of which were converted by R. Magee.

The City forwards all toiled hard, the quartette consisting of Walsh, Seeling, Waddell and Herring getting through an immense amount of work.

Of the backs Little gave a good display, while R. Magee played his usual hard game. Gladding was responsible for a good exhibition, while Kean justified his inclusion.

Of the Shore forwards Wells was the most conspicuous. Griffen played solidly, and was always in the thick of it.

Of the backs D. Miller, at full, gave a fine exhibition, his splendid line-kicking and solid defence being of invaluable service to his side. P. Gerard donned the jersey for his old club, but was only able to shine at times, a lack of condition handicapping him greatly. Woodward showed out well, carrying out his fair share of the work in a creditable manner.

NOTES.

In playing in the Shore-City match on Saturday Estall, the City three-quarter, got badly kicked on the arm, with the result that he will be unable to play for a couple of weeks.

It is interesting to note that in the New Zealand team selected to play against the Britishers on Saturday, only three players who took part in the last New Zealand-Britain match are included, namely, Wallace, Stead and Seeling.

Accidents—most of them fortunately minor—were frequent during the Britain-Wellington match, and play was stopped at almost regular intervals to permit the knocked-out to recuperate. Both sides suffered, but the Englishmen the more seriously. "We shall have a team of crocks before the tour has commenced if this goes on," growled Mr. Harnett, the manager, when Jackett was knocked out. His anxiety was not allayed by the future developments of the game.

The Wellington public did not have an opportunity of witnessing the capabilities, or incapacities, of Jackett as a fullback (says a writer in the "New Zealand Times.") The kick he received on the face early in the contest rendered him hors de combat for the greater part of the game. The accident gave J. C. M. Dyke, the reserve fullback, a chance of showing his ability in the position. Prior to the accident he was playing forward, but took up the position of fullback on Jackett retiring. He is a much better fielder than Jackett, but both of them kick splendidly, using the line to advantage.

The Maori facility for nick-names was in evidence at Masterton during the Britain-Wairarapa match. After seeing Jackett's fine performance, the Maoris with one accord christened him "Te Tuna" (the eel) as a compliment to his powers of slipping through his opponents.

It is not generally known that the Inter-island match this season is to be played at Wellington on Wednesday, June 24. This is in view of the test match to be played against the Anglo-Welsh team at Wellington on Saturday, June 27. The leading players from all over New Zealand will be assembled in Wellington for the North Island v. South Island contest, when the team to represent New Zealand in the test match will be selected.

Writing of the Wellington-Britain match, a well-known football authority makes the following complimentary reference to the New Zealand halfback:—Roberts is a "stopper." At this phase of Rugby he is par excellence, and sets an example to younger aspirants, which, if followed, would probably endanger their lives. The way he fearlessly dived for the ball in Wednesday's match when the British forwards were charging at top was surprising. He got knocked out once when several Britishers were precipitated over him, but he was soon up and smiling.

It is very seldom that one sees the forwards place themselves for a line-out right in the centre of the field, but that is what the Englishmen did in the match against Wellington. Laxon, the Wellington winger, always threw the ball in from touch with all his might, and it travelled far out to the waiting forwards. Hardham, on the other hand, simply threw the ball a few feet, right into a bunch of black men. The English way was undoubtedly preferable from the spectators' point of view, and kept the game much more open and interesting than it would otherwise have been.

W. Mackrell, the "All Black" professional forward, arrived in Auckland from the South on Sunday. Mackrell has put on a couple of stone weight since he was last seen in Auckland, and looks every inch a solid stamp of player.

Walsh, the crack City forward, received severe injuries in the match against North Shore on Saturday, but after a short spell continued playing on.

The services of Mr. T. W. Leslie, custodian of the Wellington Town Hall and an ex-champion walker of New Zealand, have been secured as travelling trainer of the British team.

The "New Zealand Times" makes the following interesting comment:—In its critique of the Masterton match the "N.Z. Times" returned Harding and Co. as better stuff than Bedell-Sivright's team, and this conclusion was not nullified by proceedings in the Britain-Wellington match. If any of the provincial teams elect to hold them cheap they will be speedily undeceived, but it seems fairly evident that the visitors cannot stand up to a representative New Zealand combination. Whatever happens, they are sure to make friends everywhere, for a cleaner, whiter lot of sports could scarcely be conceived. And so the curtain may be allowed to fall on a great match and an £1125 gate.

The Wanganui Rugby Union is making arrangements to show the British footballers the attractions of the Wanganui River during their stay there. The team will be taken for a two days' trip up the river to Pipiriki, and then on to the upper reaches.

The Ponsonby team will make their first appearance in Sydney in the early match at the Sydney Cricket Ground on July 25, prior to the concluding New South Wales v. Queensland fixture. They will play again on the Wednesday, and the third and last match on August 1, the date of the play-off for the Sydney Premiership between the four best first grade clubs.

Word has been received from England that it is legal for a player to throw the ball in from touch at right angles, catch it himself, and play on. It has been ruled in this country that this is not legal. Henceforth the new (or rather the old) ruling will be reverted to. It has the merit of not only legal correctness, but of adding to the pleasure and attractiveness of the game. However, the player may not bounce the ball in and play on. This seems contradictory, but no doubt it is due to the fact that the bouncer is generally still in touch when he catches the ball.

There are two threequarters named "J. P. Jones" in the British team. In order to avoid confusion, the Welsh International and Monmouthshire player is known as "Ponty," whilst the man from Kent and Guy's Hospital is known as "Tuan."