

also doing some fine line-finding towards the close. Weston, Clifford, Hill and Barker were the pick of the College backs, and all played with great dash. Barker was at times good on attack, besides doing some clever saving.

At half, Clifford played a really fine game, and greatly pleased the spectators. He made many an opening, besides getting right away himself on more than one occasion, while his rush-stopping was very noticeable, several fine marks coming his way. He gave 'Varsity much food for thought. Collaring with him, as with the backs above mentioned, was a particularly strong feature of the play, a fine exhibition of this branch of the game being given, much to 'Varsity's discomfort.

As before mentioned, 'Varsity were really minus a half, therefore Gray, Geddes, and the three-quarters, Lambert, Wilson and Forsdick, starved, except for occasional lone-handed efforts. It was a pity that the students were so severely handicapped neither Inkster nor Marks being at all adapted to the position of half-back.

Geddes, Gray and Lambert made valiant efforts to make chance openings and break away, but did not get far, 'Varsity being kept on the defence during a fair portion of the game. Lambert's kicking was again of great service, though the wet and greasy ball affected his place-kicking.

Forsdick, as left wing three-quarter, appeared to be very undecided when in possession of the ball, and did not play up to his previous Saturday's form. Both in attack and defence his hesitation marked his weakness, which will probably disappear with experience.

Wilson, who was suffering from an injured side, was not up to his game, though getting through a good deal of work.

College Rifles were easily the better team on the day's play, besides several easy chances of scoring going astray through overeagerness or misunderstandings.

CITY V. PARNELL.

The match between City and Parnell on the Agricultural Show Grounds at Epsom, on Saturday, proved little short of farcical, the Cityites being far too formidable for the weakened maroon team, which, when the time arrived for starting, was five men short. After some difficulty and delay the vacancies were filled, but to little purpose, as the City men had no difficulty in winning by 21 points to nil, after a game devoid of interest. The fact of their team being so weak appeared to have a discouraging effect upon the wearers of the maroon, who made half-hearted attempts to stem the onslaughts of the City fifteen. The match did little more than suffice five minutes practice, and in the five minutes practice, and in the circumstances it was not surprising that Parnell cried a "go" when a score of points had been registered against them, as the exhibition must have been decidedly uninteresting to the onlookers—to prolong the one-sided contest would have been sheer folly. The City backs and forwards threw the ball about to some purpose, the weak opposition enabling them to have matters all their own way, no less than seven tries being recorded, none of which, however, were converted.

Criticism of the individual play would, in the circumstances, appear superfluous, but the game served to strengthen the contention that C. F. Burns, the well-known Auckland sprinter, who is playing on the wing three-quarter for City this season, is certain to prove one of the most capable try-getters in the senior competition this season. On Saturday

Burns successfully crossed the Parnell line on no less than five occasions, his great turn of speed enabling him to race round the opposition in almost every instance.

The failure of Parnell to muster a full team to oppose City on Saturday is likely to cause the withdrawal of this old-established club from the senior ranks. Had it not been for the enthusiasm and keenness of such energetic members of the club as A. Twiname, A. C. Wilson, S. Somerfield, J. Muir, and H. G. Chevis, it is probable that the club would not have been represented in senior football during the past two seasons. On several occasions last year the Parnell men took the field without their full complement of players and despite overwhelming defeats continued to battle through the season. Four time-honoured senior clubs in Suburbs, Grafton, North Shore, and Newton, found the scarcity of players too substantial a handicap to remain in the senior ranks, and in turn they dropped out of the competition. New clubs, however, in University, College Rifles and Marist Bros. were formed, all three of which are doing well in the senior competition.

Once a team gets down the list in the senior ranks it falls upon evil days under the club scheme, for few new players of repute will prefer a weak club to a strong one, and the only solution of the present difficulty is to enforce a regulation preventing a player from leaving a weak club to join a stronger one, while the allocation of new players to the various clubs at the beginning of the season should be made by a special committee of delegates from the different clubs. Some difficulty may arise in this connection, but a more unsatisfactory state of affairs than exists at present could hardly result by the adoption of the above method of allocation of players, as unless the weaker clubs are fostered by the ruling body the time is not far distant when the senior clubs in Rugby Union football will be reduced to four, or even three, teams.

Otto Wolfgramm, who at times has represented Newton, Grafton, Parnell and City, turned out for the last-named team on Saturday, and judging by his initial game of the season he should do much to strengthen the red and black rearguard in matches to come.

The City forward J. Magee was an absentee from the red and blacks on Saturday, an injury in the match against University the previous Saturday having kept him out of the fray for the present.

Jack Peterson, who in past years has represented Grafton and City, was seen out among the Marist Bros. forwards in the match against Ponsonby on Saturday, and his presence in that division should prove a valuable acquisition to the 1912 cup winners.

University's defeat at the hands of College Rifles was quite unexpected after their victory over City the previous week, and the loss in Saturday's game has made the students' task an exceedingly difficult one, and has caused City's prospects to brighten once more. With their dashing set of forwards it only requires the red and black rearguard to rise to the occasion to give the club an undisputable second to none chance of annexing the championship.

The Ponsonby fifteen, which suffered defeat in the first match of the season, but which has subsequently defeated Parnell and Marist Bros., is being strengthened every Saturday, and their chances of annexing the senior championship are now much

favoured in Rugby circles. The veteran Joe O'Leary has yielded to the persuasive efforts of his club mates to don the blue and black jersey for the present season, and he was able to render his side valuable assistance on Saturday. Gillespie, the ex-Wellington forward, will also assist the Ponsonby team later on, so that last year's championship winners should take a prominent part towards the business end of the season.

The Wanganui Rugby representative team is to meet Taranaki on Wednesday, 3rd June, the match to be played here on Cook's Gardens. Owing to various reasons, practically no football has been played here so far this season, and the fifteen to meet Taranaki has been selected almost entirely on last year's form. On paper the team looks to be a fairly good one, but the men will doubtless feel the want of practice. However, though Taranaki is generally expected to win, the game should prove by no means one-sided, as the Wanganui men have a happy knack of doing well when least expected.

It is expected that the team to represent Australia against New Zealand in the test match during the latter's visit to the Commonwealth will include most of last year's fifteen. Those who made the trip to New Zealand were: L. J. Dwyer, E. J. Fahey, R. Simpson, E. Carr, D. Sutor, L. W. Wogan, H. Jones, W. G. Tasker, F. Wood, H. George, C. O'Donnell, W. T. Watson, C. Wallach, R. B. Hill, B. D. Hughes, W. Cody, F. Thompson, and R. Roberts. Reynolds did not go, but will probably be picked this year.

At a meeting of the Management Committee of the Wellington Rugby Union last week a letter was received from the secretary of the New Zealand University Rugby Football Club. Mention being made of the proposed tour of New Zealand of the Sydney University team. The letter pointed out that September 5 and 9 had been decided as dates for matches in Wellington by the New Zealand Union, and the secretary asked permission to use Athletic Park on the dates in question. After some discussion it was decided to grant the use of the park on the dates mentioned, the Wellington Union to take 20 per cent. of the gross receipts, less wages.

NORTHERN UNION GAME.

The League competitions in Auckland are now in full swing, and Saturday witnessed several highly exciting matches. In the senior grade City met North Shore at the Domain, and a splendid match resulted in favour of the latter thirteen by eight to six. As neither team had so far this season suffered a defeat, their meeting was watched with keen interest by devotees of the Northern Union game, as indications pointed to City and North Shore having most to say in the championship. Both sides played sound defensive games, but there was a lack of finish about their attacking methods, which were mostly of the willing order. That the teams were very evenly matched was clearly shown by the trend of play, for the issue remained in doubt right up to the cessation of hostilities. For North Shore Griffen and Fox scored tries, one of which was converted by Paul. City's score consisted of three goals, all kicked by E. Asher.

North Shore's victory adds further interest to the senior competition, as they are now level for the championship with Ponsonby, with two wins a-piece and a drawn game. Next comes City with two wins and a loss, while Newton has had a win, a loss

and a draw, Otahuhu two losses and a draw, and Grafton three losses.

The Grafton thirteen, which gave promise of accomplishing big things in League football, despite this being the first year the club has entered a team, appears to be going off, and were beaten by Ponsonby to the extent of 19 points to five. For the winners, Savoury (2), Cross, Corby, and McWhirter scored tries, Webb and Cross each kicking a penalty goal. For Grafton Austen scored a try and Ifwerson kicked a penalty goal.

Otahuhu put up their best showing up to the present against the Newton team on the former's ground, the match ending in a draw, each side notching ten points. The Otahuhu thirteen made a very creditable stand against the more experienced team, and the result of the match is certain to create keener interest than ever in the new code in the Otahuhu district. Brockliss and Tobin each secured a try for Otahuhu, both of which were converted, while Cooke scored twice for the local men, converting one of his tries, while he also kicked a penalty goal for the suburban team.

A titanic struggle was witnessed at Greenlane between the newly-formed Remuera team and the City third thirteen, the latter eventually proving victors by five points to three. The match was witnessed by a large crowd, and the greatest excitement prevailed throughout the game. The keen interest which this junior match created was evident by the lusty barracking of the spectators, and was a striking testimony of the firm hold the game has among football enthusiasts in the Remuera, Greenlane and Ellerslie districts. The Remuera Club has done much to awaken the interest of residents of the surrounding districts in the Northern Union game, and already there is talk of several new clubs springing up in the suburban districts.

The English Northern Union football team, which is at present touring Australia, is regarded by leading League authorities as the most powerful combination that has ever left Great Britain. Australian League exponents who are playing for the English clubs at Home also express the same opinion, one prominent N.S.W. player going even further and stating that he will be surprised if the Britishers lose a single match in Australia.

Although strong inducements are being held out to the crack New South Wales League player, Syd. Deane, to proceed to England and throw in his lot with one or other of the English clubs, he is still in Sydney, and as far as is known has no intention of taking his departure from the Commonwealth. A writer in the "Yorkshire Post" thus refers to the offer made to Deane as follows:—"The name of Syd. Deane, who is still in Australia, has once more been associated with the Hull Football Club, but Oldham are still keeping £600 on the head, or rather signature, of the Colonial should the Boulsvarders be anxious to increase their collection of Antipodean players. Deane is said to be anxious to join Bumper Devereaux at the Boulevard, but this big transfer fee, a passage fare from Australia, and a substantial wage, are not likely to cause the opening of even the notorious liberal purse of the Hull F.C. On top of all this, wouldn't it be strange to see Deane in West Riding colours (not claret and gold) next season? There are more unlikely things, too." The writer hints that some other club in Yorkshire—not Huddersfield, whose colours are claret



GROUP OF CITY (AUCKLAND) RUGBY UNION PLAYERS—FROM LEFT: GODFREY, BARCLAY, O. STEWART, BURNS, S. MAGEE, TRE-SIZE, CAMPBELL, SUTHERLAND, WALTERS, WOLFGRAMM, CAMPBELL.