

an even game, and such Saturday's exposition proved to be, nine points going down to the credit of each side. From start to finish both teams played hard and fast football, the game being exceedingly willing for the first of the season. In the forwards the teams were well matched, although there were times in the game when one side would appear to be infinitely superior to the other as the result of a vigorous combined rush. The game did not consist of a battle between the forwards, as the backs were called upon to do their fair share of the work, the object of both teams apparently being to open up the game. It was one of those matches the result of which looked difficult to predict from the start—even when the spell had ended with the score six points to nil in Grafton's favour it was evident that Parnell had not yet played their best card. The Graftonites grafted particularly hard in the first spell, fully recognising the big advantage it is to a team to place points to its credit in the first half. The second spell saw neither team give the other any quarter, and a strenuous struggle right up to the call of time made the game decidedly interesting. The maroons showed up a great deal better in the latter half, playing with more combination, and on several occasions they went within an ace of scoring tries. The condition of the Parnellites lasted out better than that of the wearers of the black and white, and in the final twenty minutes' spell the play was confined to Grafton's territory most of the time. Though Grafton's score was made up of three tries—all secured by O. Wolfgramm—and Parnell's points were obtained as a result of three goals kicked by J. Hardwicke, it does not follow that Grafton were unlucky to lose, as the fates were against the maroons on more than one occasion when a score looked imminent. The Parnell backs, with one or two exceptions, acquitted themselves well individually, but there appeared to be a weak link in their combination, the consequence being the ball did not travel as smartly through their hands as was the case with the Grafton back division. Again, there was a disinclination on the part of one or two of the Parnellites to go low for their man, their tackling leaving considerable room for improvement. The Grafton backs threw the ball about in a praiseworthy fashion, but towards the finish of the game the Parnell men gave them few opportunities to get going properly.

Comments on the Players.

O'Brien and Pople were a pair of consistent grafters in the Grafton pack, both getting through a great amount of work. Swainson also gave a creditable display. Among the backs Wolfgramm, Power, Dowe and Candy were all responsible for useful exhibitions. Power rendered his side no end of assistance with his powerful line kicks, which were splendidly judged. Marshall, at full-back, gave a safe display, always succeeding in clearing his goal line from danger. Wilson, centre forward for Parnell, kept the maroons together admirably in the scrum, while in the loose he proved a hustler of the right stamp. His inclusion in the Parnell pack has greatly strengthened the maroons, as his experience in representative football enables him to impart much valued instruction to the younger players. Muir played his usual hard game, being generally in the thick of the fray. Thomas played a first-rate game in the rear division, being very solid on the defence. Hardwicke was in good form, his splendid kicking being all that could be desired. Besides scoring the whole of the nine points for Parnell with his goal kicking, he made several very close attempts to pilot the leather over the crossbar. Twiname acquitted himself creditably, but was given few opportunities on the attack.

The Forward Divisions.

The Grafton forwards are a hard-working lot, and they toiled with a will against the Parnell front division. It was in the line-outs that the Graftonites got in their best work, as they generally managed to secure the leather and shoot it out to their backs. They also showed to advantage in the dribbling rushes, in which they assisted one another whenever the opportunity presented itself. Their dare-devil rushes when properly organised were a source of trouble to the Parnellites, but Thomas proved a thorn in their side, this player rendering yeoman service to the Parnell team with his plucky rush-stopping.

The Parnell forwards should develop into a strong team as the season progresses, as on Saturday they stood out very prominently at various stages of the match. The little combination which they at present lack is certain to come to them during the next few Saturdays, and as they have plenty of dash they should go through the season with credit.

A Brilliant Threequarter.

A feature of the Parnell-Grafton match was the brilliant showing made by O. Wolfgramm, who scored the three tries obtained by the latter team. The Grafton backs were well aware of the scoring propensities of their wing-threequarter, and when the ball was secured from the scrum they lost no time in transferring it through one another's hands to Wolfgramm. Once in his possession, the speedy three-quarter was a power to be reckoned with, and thrice did he outwit the maroon backs and score. Wolfgramm is a strong runner, and being in splendid fettle this season he is certain to take a big hand in notching tries during the cup matches.

City Easily Defeats Newton.

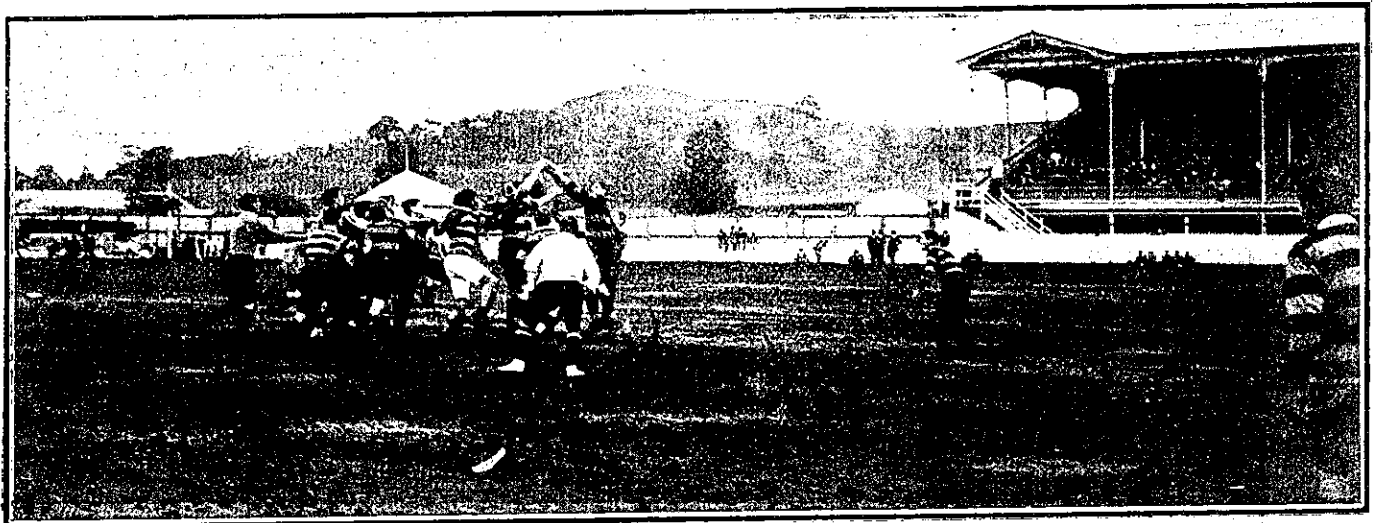
The City-Newton match did not create much interest outside of a desire on the part of a good number to see how the new players that have joined the City Club would shape. The match was voted a good thing for City beforehand, and it was only a matter of how many points the red and blacks would put up. The expected victory came their way to the tune

not in a position to get together a fifteen such as represented them some five years ago. They appear to be unable to secure a heavy enough team for senior football, and as the majority of the first-grade teams are on the weighty side this means a big disadvantage to the Newtonites. Whether Newton will drop out of the senior competition before the end of the first round is a matter for conjecture, but after their praiseworthy efforts in mustering a senior fifteen it is to be hoped that such a step will not be found necessary.

City Score Eight Tries.

The City-Newton match resulted in the frequent invasion of the Cityites of the red and whites' citadel. The first try was obtained shortly after the kick off, and others followed at varying intervals. Stewart drew first blood for City by scoring in the corner, but R. Magee's shot at goal proved futile. Forsyth, the Alhambra (Dunedin) forward, scored City's second try, getting over as the result of a tricky run. S. Magee failed in his attempt at goal. City's next try was obtained by Bruce, the North Island representative forward, who got across the line from a scramble. S. Magee again failed at goal. Several minutes later Fake secured the fourth try for the red and blacks, but S. Magee's shot at goal proved fruitless. Before half-time was called Barclay scored another try, but Fitzgerald was unsuccessful in his attempt at goal, the score then being: City 15, Newton nil. On resuming the Newtonites

the rules, and proceeded to explain the position which led up to his decision. There had been a good deal of boo-hoing during the match, and he thought that some of the language by some of the Athletic players was rather out of the ordinary. He had cautioned the Athletic team as a whole, but he could not pick out any individual. The player in question, when asked for an explanation of his conduct, denied that there was any hooting or that he had given any cause to the referee to order him off. He heard no bad language, and had not the slightest idea why he was ordered off. The Committee, however, decided that the player should be suspended for four playing Saturdays, while a caution was administered to the Athletic team. The other case which came before the Committee concerned a Selwyn player, who was ordered off the field by the referee in the Selwyn-Oriental junior match for striking an opponent in the face with his open hand. Previous to this, the player in question had been cautioned for tackling a man after he had parted with the ball. The player denied the referee was right when he said he (the player) had struck his opponent. The man alleged to have been struck was a personal friend of his own. After some discussion, during which it was urged that the time had come for a strong stand to be taken, it was decided to suspend the player for three months a motion that he should be suspended for a month being defeated.



THE "ALL BLACKS," FRANCIS AND NICHOLSON, JUMPING FOR THE BALL IN THE PONSONBY V. UNIVERSITY MATCH.

of 28 points to nil, the Newton fifteen being no match for them in any department of the game. The Newton players were defending nearly the whole of the time, but they were unable to resist the determined rushes of the Cityites, who continually broke through their defence. The game, though one-sided, was nevertheless interesting, the City men frequently showing flashes of brilliancy in their concerted attacks. The red and black forwards played a solid and serviceable game, and easily outmatched their opponents. The City backs were kept going with passing runs, and with a little more combination should be well up to the standard of the leading back teams in the senior competition. It was only now and then that the Newton players showed anything approaching senior form, their dashing tactics being only of a momentary order. The Newtonites certainly deserve praise for placing a team in the senior grade, but it is plainly evident that the Club are

made a determined stand for a while, but the City men soon returned to the attack, Power eventually getting over and registering a try, which Fitzgerald converted. Before the end of the match Stewart scored two more tries for City, one of which was converted by R. Magee, the final score being: City 28, Newton nil.

Two Wellington Players Suspended.

It is gratifying to note that the referees in Wellington are taking a firm stand in eliminating objectionable features which tend to bring Rugby into disrepute, and as the result of reports received at last week's meeting of the Management Committee of the Wellington Rugby Union, two players have been suspended. The referee, who had control of the Athletic-Wellington junior match, reported having ordered an Athletic player off the field for harassing him. The referee stated that he thought that the matter was due to ignorance of

NOTES.

Beamish, of Taranaki, who was to have donned the jersey for the City Club this season, will not, as originally intended, make the trip to Auckland. This will mean that City will be minus the services of this crack five-eighths, whose loss will be felt by supporters of the red and blacks.

Smythe, the Grafton forward, was an absentee from the Grafton pack on Saturday, this player being on a brief visit to Wellington.

George Tyler did not play for the City team in their match against Newton on Saturday. Tyler will not be able to play for his Club in every match, owing to his inability to get away from his business duties on certain days.

The captains of the senior teams engaged in the Auckland Rugby Union's competition are as follows:—Ponsonby (G. Nicholson), City (R. Magee), Grafton (O. Wolfgramm), Marist Bros. (R. Macdonald), Parnell (A. Twiname), University (F. Wilson), and Newton (Heighton).

At a meeting of the Management Committee of the Wellington Rugby Union last week, a letter was received from the Victoria College Club, asking that they should be allowed to play Auckland University in Wellington on June 3. It was decided that the match could not be played on June 3, and to suggest June 5 for the contest.

There are few places in the Dominion where football is so enthusiastically pursued as at Petone. One of the most stringent unwritten laws in Petone Club football is that if a player is anxious to keep his place—no matter in what grade—he has to put in two nights a week at the gymnasium, and what is the result? Ever since Petone has been competing in the championship they have been a team

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