

HOTCH! SCOTCH! POTCH!

(Contributed by "The Groper.")

To Birdwood:—

Not to thee, but thanks to nature,
Thou art acting but thyself,
Went thou awkward, stiff, affected,
Spurning nature, torturing art,
Loves and graces all rejected,
Then indeed thou' d'st act a part.

—Burns.

A modest Scot extolling the greatness of Scottish genius was rebuffed by a bored listener of English blood, with: "Ridiculous man! ridiculous! I don't know that a literary man of supreme genius was ever produced by your country." The droll reply was "Mebbie no—but there wud be Wattie Scott—and Robbie Burns, of coorse, an—an—Wullie Shakespeare." Indignation personified blared out: "Shakespeare? Don't be a fool, man! Shakespeare was an Englishman of the English." Scottie temporarily flattened and breathing as if recovering from the effect of a half a brick on the solar plexus, rallied with: "Oh, weel, he was sic a brilliant man ye might o' pardoned me fur the suggestion."

Is it not a misfortune that brilliant English Birdwood did not hail frae the land o' oat cakes and whusky?

That the commander of the Anzacs and father of their fame should be received as a king is as it should be. Napoleon conquered because he sat enthroned in the hearts of his grenadiers and "made his marshals from mud." No commander however great in strategic conception can catch and fire the imagination of an army without the personal touch. General Sir William Birdwood is verily "a soldier and a man." He meets men on their own levels and in so doing raises them above it. This is genius. The "would be's" and spurred martinets who mar almost every military establishment cannot do better than study Birdwood. He's worth while. Officers already popular with their men need not a physician.

General Birdwood, like his Gallipoli chief, Sir Ian Hamilton has a fine gift of expression—a quality that every officer should cultivate. One can imagine many a sombre hour in the five grey years of war made radiant by the "Soul of Anzac." Long may Sir William Birdwood live to smile.

Had Birdwood not been a soldier he might have been a Mark Twain—who knows? His Scotch story about some folks taking their old umbrellas to church and returning with a new one is quite credible.

A local Scot said, "Man, ye ken I hinna been tae kirk for thirty-eight years." When asked for the reason of his neglect he replied: "Weel, the last time I went wus at the Waimatuku thirty-eight years syne an yin o' the elders stole ma bridle."

Diggers say that:—Hall-Jones made a fine speech at the smoke concert—The "Groper" concurs!

Padre Gilbert's remarks were short, sharp and felicitous. A demonstration that brevity is the soul of wit. We hope Glendenning heard it.

Denny Cuthbertson may be Birdie's next Chief of Staff. Denny was certainly interested in the General.

Heard in Dee street (near "News Office"), after the Prince's departure:—"Well, Mac, ye see yon plantation wi' the fairy lights erectit by wee Crosby-Smith?" "Aye! man what about it?" "I wis wonderin' how high it wud be?" "O wis ye, weel she can told ye that—it will pe the hicht o' tam nonsense."

WESTERN DISTRICT RUGBY SUB-UNION.

A meeting of the Union was held in the Globe Hotel, Riverton, on Saturday, June 12th, there being present: Messrs A. E. Ward, P. Wilson, L. Trail, B. Duncan, J. T. Brooker, and J. Breen. In the absence of the president (Mr A. C. Mills) Mr A. E. Ward occupied the chair.

The secretary was instructed to write to each club and explain the cost of insuring players.

A letter was received from the Northern Union re arranging a match with Western District. Secretary instructed to write and explain that the Union are waiting for a reply from the South Otago Union, with the object of getting the two fixtures on the same day.

The application of H. L. Brown for a transfer from Orepuki to Nightcaps was granted, subject to the approval of the Orepuki Club.

The following players were re-graded

from senior to junior players, M. Dixon, Robb and Prendeville (Nightcaps), D. Stevens (Riverton).

The protest of the Orepuki Club against the referee in their match at Nightcaps was dismissed. A protest from the same Club re Otautau playing members not re-graded in junior team was also dismissed.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the meeting.



HIS WASHUP.

Under the building of H.B.
The village bootshop stands,
The boss, a little man is he
With speeches in his hands,
His hammer idle on the bench
He's done with leather bands.

To Council meetings he doth go.
For he is top dog there,
And (awl) his (sole) shines in his face,
When he takes the Mayoral Chair.
And when a Prince or General comes
It makes his heart rejoice,
For there at (last) he makes a speech,
And hears his own wee voice.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

SPORTS' PROTECTION BANNER.

PUBLIC SERVICE (12) v. UNION (6).

Union kicked to Fortune who returned to middle field, the Union pack breaking away in the two lines that followed, but kicking too hard to J. Dalgleish who sent it back to neutral line. Union did a line pass but the kick set up a Service pass and McDonald passed to J.D. who sent a bad one for Saunders to juggle with and score. Fortune missed with a good effort. Service 3. Sproat marked the 25 and Union marked his weak kick; the line scrum that came was even, Service heeling for McDonald to pass slowly when tackled, a scramble following. During an exchange of poor kicks Galbraith came out fast but did not dive, so the Blacks benefited, Saunders coming fast and being tackled at the north-east corner of No. 1 ground. He dropped the ball, and the abiduous Jack Dal picked it up and scored. Fortune again made a good shot, but the score was only Service 6. A big colour rush, through the Service full waiting for an elusive bounce, looked well for Union, but the Black backs were too good and cleared to north middle line. A full to full effort saw the Service man redeem himself with a good take and kick to the old spot. A Union break-away made Fortune kick cleverly over his shoulder and clear to line. Cameron came away well, but lost his pack, and J. Dalgleish mis-kicked the heel, though a dribble finished the Service effort to Union 25. Union forwards broke every Service line, but fed the very safe opposing backs—the man coming away with the ball should change direction to a player on his right or on his left, and not send the ball forward. Casey and McDonald, of Dunedin and All Black fame, were masters of this strategy. Stewart of Union made a good man-to-man tackle and his other forwards supported him in the opening, but Service were penalised for lying and Cockroft had a shot, his forwards, by their position during the free, proving that they didn't know where to stand, or how to

FURNITURE.

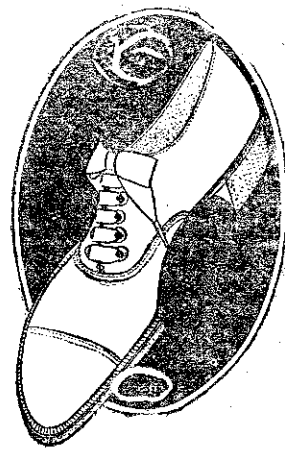
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follow a high punt. They stood in a bunch and backs easily got out of the way of the wedge-like mass. J. Dalgleish and Fortune did some good work, but Callaghan was not lucky in support. Cockroft had a good pot from a mark, and Service had a man in front for their take the scrum, resulting just in front of the posts. From the break Sellars shone to the 25 line where a free to Union sent the ball out ten yards from home. Stobo relieved excellently, and a Union kick was well returned by Service full. Stobo again headed a rush and cleared a fine Union forward effort, but the Cockroft pack came back again to be checked with a defence pass J.D. to Saunders, who kicked too low for attack. Blacks were smarter than Union around the scrum and the play ran into the latter's territory where a heel was sent with a bad pass to second five McDonald, but the poor Union backs let the ball be sent out in their own 25. A great colour rush was stopped and Service heeled, but McDonald slipped in jinking, the movement ending in a pass to Saunders who didn't find the line. Black forwards came up and Union were penalised for unsuccessful anticipation. Fortune goaled beautifully. Service 9, Union nil. The kick was returned to half-way, and a big Union dribble gave Service full a chance for a meticulous speculator. Then Union wing-three had a lash and a scrum followed, Union securing and passing badly, but the forwards came to the rescue forcing the ball to within ten yards of Service line, where Cockroft broke through in possession and scored five yards in from the north-west corner, no one saying him nay. When the kicker failed, the score was, Service 9, Union 3. The line umpires stood together on a line drawn through the middle of the bar and the ball-spot. Mr Isaac Jenkins has it that line umpires to be of any assistance to the referee should, when watching goals, stand one at each post and look up. Experience teaches, try it. When Service got the return of their kick, Union wing-three was out of place for Blacks' full who returned short. An interchange of kicks was very ragged and a Union forward received a pass in good position but got flurried making a forward scrum, the heel from which came to Service, but

Jack Dalgleish slipped and made a set scrum from which Union secured. Then their pass was as usual, poor. The forwards retrieved the lost ground and Service again fed, McDonald being wrongly penalised for coming up as he had initiated the movement. The kick relieved Colours to the 25, and another free saw them well into Service last stretch. Black forwards began a clearing effort but Union McDonald sent it back with a left to where it had been, and two Union forwards scored—a great rush! Cockroft made a weak kick. Service 9, Union 6. Service dropped out badly, their forwards standing together and their kicker didn't give them a hope of reaching the ball, although Union waited for bounces. Still Union McDonald relieved coming up and getting a lucky bounce that his weak wing had waited for. From the line parallels Union forwards came away magnificently and Jack Dalgleish dived on the ball in the midst of feet and foes like a Briton. The game was as clean as clean could be except for an odd push on the line, one man being especially given to that rotten practice. Lance Dalgleish relieved with a line kick when Union seemed to be coming into the open, and the scrum from the line out saw Service penalised. Stewart, a weak kick tried a drop, Cockroft having a sore leg. The effort forced Service, and much ground was lost to Union. The 25 returns ended with a Union mark which was again weakly kicked, the bout ending with the ball at mid-line. In the scrambling play that followed Union backs failed to do their work, not knowing how to go on one knee to pick up a ball, and generally showing incompetency. Line work brought out some bad one-handed taking—or knocking on—by Union, but they always carried the lines, their heeling being nonexistent possibly through knowledge of the backs they hadn't. Union pack again came and Lance Dalgleish and Stobo cleared twice to the side line where the Service pack showed their coaching by defence heel for J.D. to boot clear. From the parallel scrum Fortune speculated at the ball, and an off-side went to Union, but Stewart returned to the corner. Service heeled and the play shifted half up the 25, where Cameron broke away, and, on arriving at the mid-line, centred,

the ball dying at half-way at Union 25. Union forwards carried the play at once to Fortune who kicked out losing ground with a curly one. The spell ended, Public Service 9, Union 6.

The second spell opened with muddled catches and poor kicks, nothing being well done except a liner, by Fortune, a Black off-side later putting Union into good position. Some kicks exchanged were not prevented as forwards would not dive at the kickers, and Union reached Service 25. Fortune cleared but Union came back with a free, and Service showed their science by foot-work, McDonald finally booting into Union ground, where a Colour mark relieved and Fortune was hustled in the take, losing by punting in the wrong direction. At this stage the Union backs were feeble in concerted work and slow in kick, Langbrien doing the only dive-at-a-kicker of the match, and curtailing the return appreciably. A passing bout of the Dalgleish's and McDonald finished by the last-named finding the line at the corner. Union cleared easily and Stobo did a heavy check by lining Service full made too good kicks and the ball was in neutral line. The game was now slow, Union forwards being too good and always the better in line work. McDonald tried a run in and was well tackled by Union backs, the effort having been made too far from the Union line. Sellars showed up in a good Service kicking to the corner. Saunders kicked high, and a scrum gave Fortune a chance to run well and centre; but the kick was marked. Union forwards smashed through and J. Dalgleish went down on the ball among most gentlemanly forwards. Speculation was rife among backs, the game being painful to behold. Black forwards made position and McDonald received and scored, Fortune being unfortunate with the kick. Service 12, Union 6. The game lacked only a whistle to end its dreariness, Union not being score-line and Service being content. A Service rest tested Union punting and found it weak, and Union forwards again had to clear, which they did right up to Service last 12 yards. The scrum from the line gave the heeling Black a chance, and the ball was sent out at almost half-way. The whistle blew then with the score, Public Service 12, Union 6.