

INTER-PROVINCIAL FOOTBALL.

OTAGO (7) v. SOUTHLAND (3).

Probably no match played by Southland has been more fully discussed than the above game. It has been looked at in all angles and with different colored spectacles, the more northern town being that the better team won, and that of the island not yet satisfied had dream has not been "yet" from. Well, present scribe has been an Otago public more confident they had a good side and could win, the expressions of opinion being critics, quondam representatives, and referees. Unfortunately for the tenor of the game, the referee made feelings run somewhat high, the Otago Association having a grievance the Southland body not being over-pleased. Southland had given Otago some referee here, and we were not going to accept an Otago referee in Dunedin. Rumours of fabulous punting the result of the match had a disconcerting effect on amateur followers of the Rugby game, and, finally, excitement ran high down here that a special train was for to take up admirers of the Otago Shield holders. Dunedin was to see its team retrieve itself after the loss against Wellington when, though, the luck was not with the Otago. The result of all these conditions was absorbing interest, the funds of the O.R.F.U. being increased by the great sum that filled Carisbrook on Saturday, September 25, 1920.

To a roaring welcome the Otago team came on to the field, Southland being applauded in turn. At 2.35 p.m. Southland lined off the first line seeing Maroons sail through a whistle pulling up a great kick. Holmes soon mis-kicked, and a free to Otago further improved them, Dalgleish checking to line. Lopdell missed a ball, and the game was at Otago's mercy. Southland again bit deep, but Perry marked; followed a scrum, an Otago heel and punt with the ball landed at half-way. Again, Otago marked, and the kick saw the speedy Blues on, Dalgleish and forward, Dalgleish grounding. The line of Blues was pierced, and the heel sent from Dalgleish to Holmes to be tackled. Maroon forwards again controlled; Blues broke right through; but they were driven back, Watson narrowly missing, the 25 giving Brown a slip and turning back and a retrieve to about half-way. Fortune came along and Southland lined slightly, the line bringing Maroons gain into the Blue last stretch, where a tack by Bain went to Lopdell who missed, and play went back to half. By this time the tactics of the fast Otago side were being developed. Duncan marked, Dalgleish made straight for the line, Ward and Perry made straight for the line whenever Southland passed, which they did frequently for some time. The wingforward looked after Lopdell, and Baird had two men to make him play a very ineffective game. This specialisation was fatal to Southland's chances, the position of the referee not being without its effect on the game. The play was not bright; the game was too keenly contested, and the great waves of sound that swelled from stand and enclosure exercised an evident force on the visiting team, nerves being on tension and nothing being done just right, the full at times showing the result of the tremendous currents of odic mal-influence. As Wellington here could little well, so Southland in Dunedin were struck with the waves of energy directed against them by thousands of spectators not exactly well-wishers. Play seemed to go Maroonwards, but at no further and at 12 to 3 p.m. Otago entered Southland's 25; play swung across to Blues' advantage, a scrum and attack following for the pass to break down on a solid tackling line. Southland broke through to the front of the Stand, some poor Otago punting followed. Scrums in quick succession, and Watson missed a Southland punt, the great Blue proving the best back on the ground. Again, Otago were driven back, Watson, Dalgleish, McKenzie, and Lopdell appearing in turn, the last named feeding Fortune to the line to be reached. Blues came through very strongly; but Whyte tore through to the 25, where a scrum sent the ball to Brown and back to McNaughton and back again to Brown. Then came a free to Otago, Kreuse sending to well over half-way. Some neutral work followed, and Brown received to send to Otago, Owles crosskicking, Crewes speeding to smother. Southland returned to half-way, and Brown sent a pass to Fortune, who got into Otago's last 10 yards, where a fumbled kick let Blues back to half. Lopdell broke through from Dalgleish but Stead met his two, and the movement stopped. Soon Fortune had two dashes, but McLeary speculated brilliantly and cleared. Holmes then appeared in a punt to the 25, and Southland moved on for a one-hander to give Otago a mark,

Lopdell returning the good punt to just halfway. The line went to Otago and a pass followed, the effort ending in Maroon's 25. Roche came into the open, and Holmes carried on to mid-flag, where a free relieved Otago, Dalgleish snapping and finding the old spot. A Southland heel reached Holmes in the ordinary way and a free to Southland further bettered, but Ward took the unlined punt and reached his opponent's 30 with an excellent punt. Lopdell and Millar appeared in movements, Otago coming away magnificently and Dalgleish going down like a Briton. McKenzie cross-kicked, and the Otago pack risked it and got to the grand stand middle. Blues rushed the line and Brown, trouble looming and Fortune not connecting with Owles till too late on the first five's miss-kick going to the Otago centre, who deserved every point of the 3 he made for his province. Otago 3. Southland 0. Millar popped out and Otago flashed back, Brown landing the mid-line. Southland freed, and Dalgleish, Millar, and Holmes were prominent. Play was at half-way still. Otago broke the Southland parallel, and swiftly bore down, a clash and a heel to McLeary sent Kreuse on the blind to Southland's corner. To 20 went the first line, Fortune then cutting a pass, and the play entering Blues' 25, where a free stopped play with a punt to Otago's 30, the smart Otago forwards being checked by Dalgleish, who marked a gain of only 5 yards resulting, the play being then at half. It did not take either side long to clear, the line play being all individual. Otago then line fed and passed a bad offside coming, Holmes at last to the line which Southland drove through for 20 yards, the whistle coming with the ball out in Blues' 25. Otago 3. Southland nil.

Brown returned the second spell opening placar to half, Southland bettering to the 25, neutral play preceding an Otago break, Millar clearing. Otago got a free, and Perry sent his side to half-way. Stead slipped through, Maroons moving on in a body, Dalgleish following and sending the play to better position, Baird finally finishing well in Blues' 25. Otago returned with smart footwork among the forwards, and McNaughton over-kicked to Brown, who forced. There was a 25 scrum and an Otago free, and our Maroons looked uneasy. Kreuse forcing Brown to 25 his failure. McNaughton sent the good drop out to half-way, Dalgleish being beaten by the swift line heel and Millar relieving. Fortune then overran a ball, Brown repairing the damage. Otago did some neat transferring, Lopdell clashing and Southland forwards then sweeping along in a strong phalanx. The next two lines went to Otago, the roar of applause driving the great Blue pack to 5 yards from Southland's corner, a force relieving a sorely tried team. The 25 was muddled on to half-way where Dalgleish broke through the line; but Otago came back at once through McDougall's agency, a Red mark bringing Perry, Cockroft, and Edwards into action, Brown winding up caught in possession. Otago pressed and Brown got a punt to half the 25, the attackers coming through the paper lines and forcing Southland. The lack of Maroon packing was telling its tale, and the Otago backs got into action, their passing, however, giving Southland ground gain. Otago crashed through a scrum, and Edwards marked on the line, Lopdell returning to Edwards who dropped a great goal from well-out. Otago 7. Southland 0. The ball was returned out in Otago's 25, the Blues coming on and on, Dalgleish checking the stampede with a daring dive. Southland took a turn, and Stead made a strong effort, play being carried to Blues' harbour corner, Lopdell and Holmes striving hard to cross, the wing three going out at the corner. Two lines then went to Blues, Dalgleish at length getting a pass to Holmes; but Kreuse, Turnbull and a free brought the ball to Brown who sent back to 20, the line bringing in Otago full and a gain to 13 yards from home. Otago were now always carrying the lines. Southland passed, but a knock-on checked, Otago scrummers appearing in the gap and going until Fortune checked them. A free to Otago was smothered by Roche and Otago were in their own 25, where the line let them out an off-side further assisting and a mark that Watson took kneeling could not check the Maroon attack, which ended at the corner. Whyte then joined Agnew who had lasted only 10 minutes and Rice filled the gap. Otago got out quickly, and McCleary and Ward carried on to 40, Southland at once returning to Otago's 25. Brown came into play and Otago were still in the last stretch, Dalgleish and Lopdell putting up a strong effort to break through. However, a free relieved the hard pressed Blues to the 25 flag, McDougall and Patterson sending Southland to nearly half-way. A scrum came, and Lopdell's punt reached Watson, the ball dying at mid-way. A line gave a slight gain to Blues,

but Maroons open out the Blue line and Dalgleish, Lopdell, Stead and a cut in sent O'Kane on not much ground resulting. O'Kane and Holmes came into a movement and Watson forced. Dalgleish sent Otago back to the 25, and a free relieved the home team about 5 yards. Holmes and a kick bringing play to a point, the return from which saw five Blues risking it, Millar dribbling through and scoring, and the tally Otago 7. Southland 3. Agnew not being available for the kick. Otago moved on and further gained with a free for Southland offside, play coming to half-way. Blues still carried the lines but O'Kane burst through to half-way, the forwards slightly improving, a free at last sending Otago back. Then came "no time" with the score Otago 7. Southland 3, one try each, Otago a dropped goal to the good.

An old Otago "Blue" and referee took the following notes on the game.

Bad play Watson after Red attack. Blue forwards loose. Red forwards beating Blue. Red getting away from line. Red passing but Blue spoiling. Blue in Red 25 at 10 to 3. Good recovery, Red—Holmes. Good play Red forwards. Good attack Blue. Fine recovery. Red passing off ground. Blue attack—Red recover. Fine play Red fullback. Red fullback going too far—in trouble. Blue attack. Owles scores at 3.15. Blue passing rush—good attack. Fortune cuts in—good attack. Blue forwards good. Red attack nearly score. Blue fine opening. McCleary to Ward—missed.

Holmes at 25. Second spell 3.38. Good play Millar. Good play Red forwards, assisted by Dalgleish. Free to Blue for offside, at 3.45, poor kick Crewes. Good play Blue forwards. Strong attack Blue forwards. Edwards potted goal at 3.55. Watson ? mark. Good attack Red—try 4.25. He writes: "You remember that I told you I thought we could win, and we did manage to move than hold your forwards, good though they are."

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Full particulars from

D. CUTHBERTSON,
Secretary.



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L. S. GRAHAM,
Secretary.

District Lands and Survey Office,
Invercargill, 21st September, 1920.

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