



D. GALLAHER.

The New Zealanders v. Cardiff.

The Game described by "Old Stager."



Before what was easily a record attendance at a Rugby club match the world over, Northmore kicked off for Cardiff amidst excitement so intense that one imagined it was the International battle over again, and that Cardiff were looked upon to uphold the proud prestige of Welsh football. After the continuous cheering which followed the entrance of the players the immense crowd preserved a perfect silence. Gallaher, far from being made the subject of hostile applause and "barracking," as some of the London specials inaccurately announced in the Welsh match, was cheered as he led his men on. A Welsh football crowd is in the main composed of men able to follow every phase of skilled play in the game, and while it is able to recognise offences against the laws by the New Zealand captain, it is none the less appreciative of the skill of the wing forward when he confines himself to legitimate play. The ball from the kick off fell towards the New Zealand right wing, where Seeling, standing just a little in front of Booth, kicked up to Winfield. The ball missed the touch line, and the crowd was nervous when it was seen that

Winfield had failed to take the ball as it fell, but he did not knock on, and placed the ball out of play with a fine screw-kick well into the New Zealand 25. On the line-out Macdonald tried to break through, but was grandly tackled, and from the first scrummage the ball came out to Roberts, who could not pick up, but Gallaher dribbled forward, but was ruled off-side. Then from the ensuing scrummage David got the ball heeled and passed to Bush, who made a good run on the blind side but his transfer went too high for Williams. Good rushing work ensued by New Zealand, and after Nicholls had just failed to check them, the ball came to Thomas, who put in a drop kick for goal, which was charged down. This happened at half-way, and in the next few moments there was some fierce play. Wallace got the ball in good position, and dropped for goal and failed, but the shot fell rather awkwardly for Winfield and there was a rush for the line. Nicholls made a courageous attempt to stem it, but his kick came into the open, and more high kicking by New Zealand, evidently designed to embarrass the backs, gave Thompson the luck of the dap, and he made a shot for goal. Bush showed fine resourcefulness by going hard for the ball at a tangent and whipping it out of play. Then Hunter had a rare opportunity of getting his three-quarter line into an attacking position, but after dodging a couple of men he was brought down, ball and all. Then Deans got his chance, but he, too, failed to utilise it effectively, as the Cardiff tackling was particularly sound. Play was proceeding at a great pace at halfway, when the Cardiff forwards got clear, Northmore, Brown and Powell being in the van, but Brown had the misfortune to overrun the ball. Wallace dived in for it, and put in a high kick, which was robbed of its effect by a brilliant bit of opportunism on the part of Powell. Then Cardiff had a penalty for an informality in the scrummage—it looked like a case of hands—but no great advantage accrued. For the next few minutes New Zealand kept play on the Cardiff side of the field, and Seeling, getting clear at a line out, kicked to touch close to the goal line. Winfield failed to find touch at halfway, and Thompson took the ball without losing his stride, and made a run to get his five-eights and threes behind him, but through their slowness he was forced to kick, and J. L. Williams fielded superbly and screw-kicked back to halfway. Hereabouts play remained for several moments, and then Cardiff got far into the New Zealand half. Their capital work by Bush and David was seen, Bush kicking into touch and gaining quite 15 yards. Hunter picking up a slipshod pass from Roberts, threw to Glasgow, who took the ball a yard offside, though it was not noticed. By means of this the Cardiff territory was again reached, as Ralph Thomas, who had jumped in to save, had a kick charged down, and it was a relief when the crowd saw Nicholls and Gabe saving in fearless fashion. A stray kick from Wallace failed to find touch, but Winfield put in a finer kick than even in the International match, winning the touch-line at his opponents 25 from his own goal. This feat was loudly applauded and the Cardiff forwards went great guns. Hunter fielded in the loose, but Gibb's surprising speed caused him to swerve towards the forwards, and Powell and Northmore brought him to the ground—a grand bit of

combined workmanship. Then Cardiff played an aggressive game. Hopes for a local victory ran high, and they were justified by the play at this stage. For the next ten minutes the Cardiff forwards not only prevented the All Blacks from getting the leather, but they were the superior heelers. The tackling was too sound to allow of the backs making much ground, but they reduced the speed of the opposing backs and forwards by brilliant touch finding. At last Bush had a clear opening, and drop kicked for goal. The ball fell a bit wide, but not sufficient to prevent the crowd raising premature cheers. A tick afterwards the Cardiff captain shone effulgently. David had given him a very good pass, and "the Prince of Dodgers" artfully brought the defence around him and then threw to Nichols, and a mighty groan of disappointment arose when it was seen that the ball had canted off his knees, the Welsh captain having come up at too great a pace, otherwise a try was a certainty, as Thompson had been drawn into the centre and R. C. Thomas was unmarked, while Wallace would have needed to be as fast again as a ten seconds man to have got within yards of him. This encouraged Cardiff, and they played beyond their reputation fore and aft. The New Zealanders were just beyond their 25, close to their left wing, when Gallaher was caught off-side on to David, whom he had brought down and accidentally kicked. Winfield taking the place was not far off from goaling, and in the next three minutes Cardiff were scorers all over. Strenuous efforts were made towards the left wing by Booth and Wallace, Johnny Williams' fielding was perfection, and on several occasions he gained ground by putting in screw punts for his forwards, with the result that the New Zealand backs were palpably disconcerted, their fielding not being equal to Cardiff, for most of the time five-eighths and three-quarters were mixed up; just the thing that Cardiff needed. The vaunted hookers were quite out of it. The Cardiff forwards did not give them time to make their usual formation, and "heads down" was almost immediately followed by the emerging of the ball and on the Cardiff side. Gallaher seemed quite out of his element, and Roberts' work was confined to endeavouring to stop rushes, which, to his credit, he did better than any other man on his side. Play was proceeding just inside the Colonials' 25, when Northmore got the ball after play from a scrummage, wound up with J. L. Williams making a clear feint and then kicking for his forwards. The real attack baffled the Colonials, as Northmore passed with grand judgment to Neill, who equalled his vice-captain's skill in throwing the ball wide to Gabe. The left centre, divining the movement, ran to meet the ball, and continuing his run made one of the unbeatable long swerves for which he is famous, and passing to Nicholls placed the line at the mercy of the Welsh captain—indeed if Nicholls had been covered R. C. Thomas was on his wing absolutely unmarked. Nicholls gained the try, which was worthy of the best of Welsh play, and better considerably than the one made from a line-out at Blackheath under almost identical circumstances a few weeks ago. The try was not made in a very favourable position, but the Welsh captain deserved commendation for his discretion in not attempting to

run round or risking a pass to Thomas. The cheering which greeted the point was deafening. Winfield took the kick, and as the ball struck the upright and seemed minutes in falling down, the tension on the crowd and players was intense. The ball rebounded into goal, and more great cheering announced the fact that a goal had been recorded. It was the first time for a Club to cross the New Zealand line, before an adverse score had been put against them.

After the kick off, there was a brilliant rush by the New Zealand forwards—by far the finest they have yet brought off in Wales. Seeling picked up, and passed to a forward, who threw to Glasgow, but the burly forward knocked on. Then Johnny Williams brought relief by marking, and took a good deal of pace out of Wallace, who had followed up his kick. Cardiff were soon at half-way, but here David was penalised—for putting the ball in improperly. Nothing much came of the kick, and then the New Zealand backs again adopted high kicking and following up, Stead, Thompson, Deans and Wallace doing most of this, and often being helped by Seeling. About this time O'Sullivan was hurt in a hot rush, and had to go off the field. In spite of this, however, New Zealand attacked strongly, and after play had been carried to about 30 yards from the Cardiff goal, there was some fine transferring between Hunter, Deans, and Thompson, and Thompson sprinted in from the left wing. It was a fine effort, and the cheers which followed the try were hearty. The point was made wide out, and the probabilities were all against Wallace goaling, but with a superb kick the most versatile of the Colonial backs equalised the score. This happened only a few minutes before the interval, and up to half-time the game was chiefly in Cardiff's favour, though the tackling was so keen that nothing like a chance of scoring occurred. Territorially, Cardiff had much the better of the game, and as their forwards had been much better helped by their backs, and the strain upon the latter had been less than upon the Colonials', there were hopes that the Citizens would stay the course.

HALF-TIME SCORE—					G.	T.	P.
CARDIFF	..	..	..	..	1	0	5
NEW ZEALAND	..	..	..	..	1	0	5

From the kick-off the ball went into touch, and was brought back. Nicholson's second kick fell to Bush, who gained ground, but Wallace drove the ball out of play nearly at the Cardiff 25. On the line-out Brown broke away splendidly, and Rumbelow following up cleverly forced Thompson to throw the ball into touch. A smart pass from the line-out gave Bush a chance, and he put in another screw-kick, and Cardiff were again soon well over the half-way. Smith came into prominence for some good tackling, and so did Llew George. Gibbs did some spoiling work, but Casey and Glasgow handled in a rush, Macdonald and Seeling joining in. David and J. L. Williams flung themselves before their feet, and fortunately the ball was sent out to Deans, who threw to Booth, but Gibbs was on top of him when he kicked into

touch. Gallaher was now playing among the forwards, the wing forward position being left unoccupied. Play was uninteresting compared with its brightness in the opening stages of the first half, and there was a lot of wild scrambling, which ended in advantage to the New Zealanders, who had fielded in a position likely to prove dangerous, and then a quick pass was given to Winfield, who gained touch on New Zealand side of the field. From here the ball came out to Stead, who threw to Hunter who in turn passed to Deans, and the big centre kicked to touch just beyond the half-way. From a line-out New Zealand got away, and Hunter, Roberts and Booth made ground in the 25. Nicholls's sterling defence was now in evidence, and it was a wonderful tackle—just in his own inimitable style—with which he brought down man and ball. Cardiff, thanks mainly to screw-kicking, won their way to the New Zealand territory, and here a New Zealand forward was winded, play being stopped for a couple of minutes. On its resumption both sides played with renewed vigour. From a loose scrummage Roberts got away the ball to Stead, and there was a good chance for a speedy man to get in from nearly half-way, when Nicholls intercepted, and, when going at full tilt, slipped. There now came some long punting between Winfield and Wallace, both on several occasions failing to find touch, yet each doing good screw kicking. Then, with surprising pace, the New Zealanders got away in the loose, and one of the backs punting, the ball fell between Nicholls and Winfield. For a moment it looked as if both would miss it. Nicholls fielded and kicked into the open, the ball fell to Wallace on the dap, but Rumbelow, who was following up at top pace, pinned him. Wallace seemed to get the ball between his legs. Several Cardiff forwards now made the mistake of getting on to him, and it was a toss up as to whether there should be a penalty against Wallace for not playing the ball, or against Cardiff for not allowing Wallace the opportunity to do so. The referee decided in favour of Cardiff, and Winfield shot for goal but failed. An exciting few minutes followed, and Cardiff got away on the left wing, and ought to have scored, J. L. Williams being held up on the line. Gabe could have put the left winger in a few minutes later had he seen he was uncovered and Nicholls, who had the transfer, was surrounded. Relief came from a kick, and then Winfield, fielding in the open, made a drop for goal. The ball fell to Thompson on the New Zealand left wing. He made an attempt to clear, but was pushed into touch about 10 yards from halfway by Gabe.

Again Cardiff attacked and L. George made a mark about 30 yards from goal and about 15 yards from the touch line. Winfield was called upon to try for goal, and once more his shot was ineffective, New Zealand put the ball out of play on the kick-out and had to have the kick over again. Gibbs then kicked across the field, but the ball, which fell towards the centre, did not go more than a couple of yards in advance of the kicker. Rumbelow followed up and passed to Bush, but it was a wild throw or it might have started a try-getting movement. Then the ball was carried across field by Roberts, who after feinting to give to Hunter ran through, and was grassed

by Nicholls, and Thompson, who had come up for the pass, was tackled gamely and held by Winfield. It was only for a few minutes that Cardiff were on the defensive, good touch-finding sending play to the New Zealand half, where Gallaher was knocked into touch before he could kick. A piece of fine workmanship by Wallace, quick fielding and accurate kicking, sent play beyond halfway, and from here Cardiff got to the 25, where they were given a penalty. Play was sent to the other 25, and here a great battle proceeded. From kicking in the open the ball canted awkwardly from the Cardiff backs, and Seeling put in a very hard kick, which sent the ball over the goal-line from about 30 yards out. New Zealand were showing chagrin at the injudicious kicking of Seeling, when the ball was seen to be rolling up to the spectators on the dead ball line. No one dreamt of a score when it could be seen that Bush was there, but the Cardiff captain lost his head, and though there was plenty of time in which to touch down he did not, and a New Zealander diving in made a try from what had been very bad play on their part, and an unaccountable failure on the part of Bush. Wallace kicked a goal from the easiest possible angle, and the score showed a clear lead of five points in favour of New Zealand.

No one hoped now for a Cardiff victory, and for a few minutes the Cardiff players were at sixes and sevens. They pulled themselves together admirably, and started attacks, in the making of which Bush was very prominent. He made two or three openings and then passed to Gabe, but the next pass was smothered. New Zealand conceded a minor, and then Gibbs, though he seemed "winged," caught the eye for some good workmanship, once cross-kicking from about 15 yards out, and Gabe pinned the man who took the ball in the goal-mouth, but not before he had passed and a relief kick was put in by Wallace. Several ineffectual scrummages took place just on the New Zealand side of half-way, and then Cardiff was penalised for David yielding to the temptation of kicking out from the scrum, the ball resting for some moments between the last forward's legs. Wallace took the penalty, and made a poor kick, and Winfield drove the ball about three-parts the length of the field, but had poor luck to find it canting into touch-in-goal. Roberts did some very smart work, escaping an upset by Gibbs very cleverly, and kicked, but a scrum followed his being tackled just at half-way. The final minutes had arrived and still Cardiff, although in advance on real play, were behind on scores. Then there came in the final seconds a positively electrifying movement. The ball was heeled out beautifully to David, who passed to Bush—a grand pass splendidly taken—and the captain made a dodging run, passed to Gibbs, who threw to Nicholls, the transfers being given and taken brilliantly, and then Nicholls had a chance which he utilised magnificently. It was a great run of his, bang through the strongest point of the defence, and when he handed to Thomas the Penarth skipper had but to take the ball without losing his stride to score. The right wing took his pass grandly, and with a determined gallop, in which he swerved in the last step or two, he scored a try on the extreme verge of

of the goal-line. A goal would equalise. Winfield's shot was his best in the game, and it could only have been inches off saving the match. But it was not to be, and though the crowd watched for several minutes after the final whistle went, they were disappointed, and streamed out with a feeling that Cardiff had lost the match, and that New Zealand had won it through a temporary lapse on the part of one of the most brilliant players in the ranks of the Citizens.

FINAL SCORE—

				G.	T.	P.
NEW ZEALAND	..	..		2	0	10
CARDIFF ..	..	..	..	1	1	8



1905-1906.



W. PHILLIPS. J. L. WILLIAMS. J. BROWN. E. RUMBELOW. W. NEILL. L. GEORGE. F. SMITH. GILL EVANS.
(umpire).
 E. G. NICHOLLS. G. NORTHMORE. P. F. BUSH. R. T. GABE. R. A. GIBBS.
(capt.)
 R. C. THOMAS, H. B. WINFIELD. R. DAVID. J. POWELL.