

THE CITIZEN, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1900

THE INTERNATIONAL MATCH

PLENTY OF RESERVED SEATS STILL TO BE HAD

There has been a brisk demand this week for tickets for the big match on Saturday, but Mr Bingle informs us there are still a large number of tickets (in good positions) to be had. Early application is requested, as there is every appearance of a big rush for places between now and Saturday. The ground at Kingsholm is covered, so that whatever the weather, the match may be regarded as certain to come off. It is anticipated that 20,000 visitors will be in Gloucester next Saturday. Local refreshment contractors should reap a rich harvest, and they would do well to get in a good stock. The railway companies are running special trains from all parts, 16 excursions coming from wales alone. The work at the Kingsholm ground is rapidly nearing completion. The whole of the arrangements have been admirably worked out, and the accommodation should be ample even if the crowd should exceed 30,000. The Gloucester Committee are leaving nothing to chance, and sparing no expense in studying the comfort of spectators.

THE CITIZEN, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1900

SATURDAY'S INTERNATIONAL

ENTRANCES TO THE GROUND

Excellent arrangements have been made for the admission of spectators on Saturday, and a large staff of police have been engaged to assist in controlling the crowd. The following information concerning the entrances will be of interest to visitors:

All reserved seat ticket-holders enter at the gate in Worcester Street , opposite the White Hart.

Two shilling stands-entrance at Worcester Street (centre gates) and Serlo Road (Deans Walk)

Entrance to field (one shilling)- gates adjacent to the Vinegar Works, Worcester Street. For the shilling crowd, the spectators will enter through wedge-shaped gangways, 16 at a time.

No money will be taken at the gates but more ticket offices will be open in Worcester and Catharine Streets. A temporary bridge will be thrown across the

brook leading to serlo road for exit purposes, some of the hoarding at both Worcester Street and Deans Walk will be repaired so that no difficulty will be experienced in clearing the crowd.

THE CITIZEN, SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1900

VENUE OF THE MATCH

PREPARATIONS FOR A VAST CROWD

Gloucester Football Club have tenanted the Kingsholm ground since 1891-2. The enclosure is in every way admirably adapted for a big match, being ideally situated, and providing a capital playing surface. For ordinary club matches a large amount of seated accommodation is not required and the club has had to dig down deeply into their pockets to provide the necessary stands, for the great encounter. The plans were prepared by Mr. Harry Dancey, allowing for stands of a substantial character erected on either side of the ground and at each end a crush barrier surrounded the enclosure inside which seats were arranged right round the field of play. The contract for the erection of the stands, etc was given to Messrs Gurney Bros., for £950.

THE WORK WAS ADMIRABLY CARRIED OUT

Arrangements generally appeared to satisfy all the requirements, and the Committee spared no expense in guarding against the fiasco which was witnessed on the occasion of the Wales v England match last year. The splendid position of the ground, and the amount of available space, gave the architect plenty of scope, and it was claimed that everyone who attended the match would, providing fog did not occur, obtain a good view of the game. This was an important fact, and one the Committee did well to bear in mind. Everyone who visited the ground prior to the match was delighted with the arrangements; the general opinion being that nothing like the extensive preparations had ever previously been made for any rugby international in either of the two countries. Mr Turnbull, the referee was amazed at what had been done. The unfavourable weather of the past weeks had considerably interfered with the work but Mr Gurney and his men had buckled to at every opportunity, and everything was in "apple-pie" order this morning. The contractor received great praise from Mr Harry Dancey, who is to be congratulated on carrying out the ground arrangements with such splendid results.

THE CITIZEN, MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1900

FROM A WELSH POINT OF VIEW

BY AN OLD WELSH SPORT

Before glancing at the actual play I should like to be allowed to congratulate the Gloucester authorities upon the excellence of the arrangements made in every department for so successfully bringing off the match. We in Wales have had considerable experience of the magnitude of the wealth of detail involved in preparing for these great games and we have to plead guilty for failures more or less pronounced, vide the bad collapse at Cardiff in the Irish-Welsh match last season, and the big breach made by the crowd behind the Press enclosure at Swansea in the English match of the same season. It struck me as I surveyed the scene at the Kingsholm Ground this afternoon that you in Gloucester had taken every precaution to avoid every conceivable breakdown. There was one point, however, in which I venture to think a mistake was made and that was in allowing the public to wander about on the turf of the playing arena before the match. I have never seen this allowed in Wales or at Blackheath. The crowd, however, was one of the merriest and best tempered I ever recollect to have seen, and when the chorus of "Soldiers of the Queen" was taken up with gusto it rather recalled the scenes of typical Welsh gatherings, when the people sing under every circumstance. I don't know how the gate will pan out when all accounts are in, but at ten minutes before the time for the start there were several bare places in the stands capable, I should say, of taking altogether a thousand extra spectators. The incursion of the crowd again at the half time interval was bad.

THE GROUND ARRANGEMENTS

At the dinner on Saturday night at the Bell Hotel, Mr. Thorp (Macclesfield) the president of the English Union, Mr. Cail (Newcastle-Upon-Tyne) the Hon. Treasurer, and the captains of both teams spoke in eulogistic terms of the excellent arrangements made for the spectators at the match by the committee of the Gloucester Club.