

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1929.

RUGBY RALLY IN GLOUCESTER.

D. R. GENT'S REMINISCENCES OF GLOUCESTER.

R.U. President and Atmosphere.

The rally organised by the Gloucester Rugby Supporters' Club at the Old Corn Exchange last evening was attended by prominent members of the Rugby Union and past and present Internationals, including Mr. W. T. Pearce (President R.U.), Dr. A. Alcock (President, Gloucester Club), Mr. D. R. Gent, Mr. A. T. Voyce, and Mr. W. W. Wakefield.

At the outset the chair was taken by the Mayor (Mr. S. J. Gillett), who said his memory of Rugby football in the city went back to the days when Gloucester played at the Spa. After introducing Mr. Gent, the Mayor vacated the chair in favour of Dr. Alcock, and left to attend another function.

D. R. Gent's Reminiscences.

Mr. Gent commenced his reminiscences by saying that what put the idea of the meeting into his head was that no players were representing Gloucester in the English Trial at Kingsholm. He thought it would be a good thing if he tried to stir up a little enthusiasm by sending them back to the days when Gloucester was a great power in the Rugger world. There was no club in the country that had such a magnificent record in the history of the game. Mr. Gent proceeded to refer to the services of some old players - George Romans, Arthur Hudson, Tom Voyce, and others. What the Club owed to Romans could not be imagined. The spectators, he said, were privileged to support such a team as Gloucester, and he hoped the fine old Club would never lack support.

Atmosphere.

Mr. W. T. Pearson said one thing that did not go from football, and which always must stay was the simple word "Atmosphere." It could be put into the formula: "You are expected to play as well as you can and as hard as you can, and let the result take care of itself." The spectator made the atmosphere of the game. They could make it unpleasant for other teams, but they could also make it a very delightful experience if they adopted the same motto as the players. It was vital to the game to give the visitors as good a time as the spectators would like Gloucester to have when they went away.

Mr. Wakefield's remarks included many amusing anecdotes of doings on and off the field. He recalled one international game against New Zealand four or five years ago, when Tom Voyce said: "Chaps, this is all right. I have never had a party like this before." He (Tom) then rolled up his sleeves and went into the scrum. "We need a few forwards of that character in the England pack to-day," said Mr. Wakefield.

Tom Voyce on Training.

Tom Voyce said that to-day such a lot of fellows did not have the keen idea of training that they ought to have. Players would not go down twice a week for training. They must keep training not only for two nights a week, but all the week. He thought one of the fittest men who ever played for England was Sid Smart.

A comprehensive vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. A. Alcock and seconded by Mr. A. Brown, and a collection was taken for the Mayor's Unemployment Fund.