

The Citizen Sports Edition
 Saturday September 17, 1927

GLOUCESTER V. LYDNEY.

PERFECTION IN TOUCH JUDGES.

By "TEEK."

"BREVITY IS THE SOUL OF WIT" - AS THE CAT SAID WHEN HE GOT HIS TAIL IN THE CHAFF-CUTTER - AND SINCE I SHALL GET THE SACK IF I AM NOT FUNNY MY ONLY COURSE IS TO BE BRIEF OVER SUCH A GAME.

THERE WERE 69½ MINUTES OF MIXED SPORTS SUCH AS LEAP-FROG AND TAG - 5 MINUTES OF LEMON-BAITING - AND ½ A MINUTE OF FOOTBALL, DURING WHICH CAPTAIN SAXBY KICKED A PENALTY GOAL FOR GLOUCESTER.

THIS GAME PRODUCED THE NEAREST THING TO PERFECTION IN TOUCH JUDGES THAT I HAVE YET SEEN, I.E. THE LYDNEY MAN. MOST TOUCH JUDGES ARE ONLY HUMAN - AND, OF COURSE, HAVE THEIR LITTLE FAILINGS. SOME CAN'T (OR WON'T) RUN - AND OTHERS ARE APT TO GO JIGGETTY WITH EXCITEMENT. BUT NOTHING OF THE SORT ABOUT THIS MAN FROM LYDNEY.

SOME LOOK AS THOUGH THEY WERE DIRECTING A STRANGER TO THE RAILWAY STATION. THE LEGIBILITY AND PRECISION OF HIS HANDLING OF THE FLAG CREATE A RECORD FOR KINGSHOLM - AND HIS ONLY LAPSE FROM THE STRICTLY JUDICIAL ATTITUDE WAS WHEN HE PERMITTED HIS TIE TO CREEP UP THE BACK OF HIS NECK A BIT DURING CRITICAL MOMENTS OF THE GAME.

A NEW DANGER HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE RISKY BUSINESS OF SPECTATING. LIP-STICK HAS FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE STANDS. IT IS APPLIED OFTEN AND VERY THICKLY - AND GETS BLOWN OFF AGAIN EVERY TIME AN EXCITING BIT OF PLAY COMES ALONG. THIS, NO DOUBT, HELPS THE LIP-STICK TRADE BUT IT DOESN'T IMPROVE THE HAT OF THE UNFORTUNATE MAN SITTING IN FRONT.

AS A RESULT OF THIS MATCH CAPTAIN SAXBY HAS SUCCESSFULLY HATCHED OUT A LITTLE GROUND RECORD BUT IT WILL REQUIRE VERY CAREFUL WATCHING IF IT IS TO SURVIVE THE NEXT MONTH OR SO.