

# GLOUCESTER v. PLYMOUTH ALBION

ALONG THE LINE THE SIGNAL WENT — "NEW BALL."

BY "TEEK."

THE GAME STARTED AGAINST A STIFF WIND — SO STIFF, IN FACT, THAT THE ONLY WAY TO KICK THE BALL UP THE FIELD WAS TO RUN BEHIND AND PUSH IT. THE BALL DIDN'T SEEM TO LIKE THIS, AND JUST AFTER THE ALBION SCORED THEIR FIRST TRY IT LEFT THE GROUND ALTOGETHER.

SPECTATORS ON THE SPOT AT ONCE SPREAD THE NEWS. OTHER SPECTATORS PASSED IT ALONG FROM MOUTH — TO MOUTH TILL IT WAS PROJECTED IN THROUGH THE DOOR OF THE GYM.

THE OFFICIALS WITHIN GRASPED THE SITUATION IN A FLASH AND WITHOUT DELAY CONVENED A MEETING, HURRIEDLY PROPOSED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT A NEW BALL BE PROVIDED, AND AUTHORIZED THE COMP-TROLLER OF SPARE PARTS TO ACT WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED IN THE MATTER.

THE COMP-TROLLER RAPIDLY FLUNG THE DOOR OF THE REFRIGERATOR OPEN, SWIFTLY INFLATED IT TO REGULATION SIZE AND TIGHTNESS, LACED IT UP WITH MARVELLOUS RAPIDITY.

WENT OVER IT WITH A CURRY-COMB. THEN WITH A STIFF BRUSH — FOLLOWED BY A SOFT RAG, — COMPLETING THE PROCESS WITH A FINAL POLISH WITH LINSEED OIL AND CROCUS POWDER.

STILL MOVING AT TOP SPEED, A RECEIPT FORM WAS MADE OUT FOR THE RECIPIENT TO SIGN. (Received one Rugby Ball complete with wind.) A TERSE BUT ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE TRANSACTION WAS ENTERED IN THE MINUTES BOOK WITH A CROSS-ENTRY IN THE PETTY CASH BOOK — AND A RED CHALK-MARK ON THE OFFICIAL SLATE.

WITHOUT PAUSING FOR BREATH AND WITH A FINAL BURST OF INTENSIVE HUSTLING WAS HURLED ON TO THE FIELD OF PLAY IN AMPLE TIME TO ALLOW THE ALBION TO WIN BY 9 PTS. TO 3 BEFORE THE MOONLIGHT GOT TOO STRONG.

THE MORAL OF THIS SEEMS TO BE THAT YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH ANY MORTAL THING IF YOU REALLY PUT YOUR BACK INTO THE JOB. AND NOW TO BED. GOOD NIGHT, EVERYBODY.

TEEK 1928