

# RUGBY FOOTBALL

## NOTES ON THE MUNSTER v. ULSTER MATCH.

The following notes on the Munster v. Ulster Rugby match appeared in the "Irish Times":—

As has happened in so many games between Munster and Ulster in the past, the Southerners made a very fine fight up to a stage, but this stage was not the final stage, and the cleverness of the Northerners eventually won the day. Munster put a very good team in the field, but they were not as clever or as well trained as the Ulstermen. It was a battle royal between the forwards practically all through, and the honours of this particular battle certainly went to Munster—that is as regards pushing and general physical strength; but there was missing from the Munster men's movements the cohesion, cleverness and enterprise noticeable in the game played by the North men. Munster put up a splendid fight, which is all the more creditable when one considers how little the game has been fostered in the South of recent years. Still, there can be no disputing the fact that the result was a true reflex of the play, and that Ulster thoroughly deserved the victory she fought so hard to gain.

Crawford was probably put to his heaviest test this season in standing up to the Munster forwards, and, except for the one very slight slip, he came through the ordeal in very satisfactory fashion. All the Ulster three-quarters were excellent, their handling being wonderfully accurate, and if they were not over-venturesome as regards individualism, the policy was, perhaps, the wisest one, for the Munster backs were no uncertain tacklers. McClenaghan and Stevenson were the pick of the four, but there was hardly a fault to be found with any. Wheeler, as well as making the first Ulster score, was very sound all through, though he has often been seen to greater advantage; and his partner, Gardiner, though strange to his position at the commencement, was excellent later on. A good, hard-working lot of forwards were best represented by McFarland, Thompson, H. McVicker and McClelland.

O'Connell, the Munster full-back, was not so severely tested as Crawford, and, like the latter, only made one slip. He fielded and kicked accurately, and is undoubtedly a very reliable full-back. The three-quarters compared poorly with the Ulster four, and their chances were more numerous; for the Munster forwards invariably got the better of the scrimmaging exchanges. The best of the line was Fayler, while Murphy-O'Connor was responsible for some effective tackling. The success of the match was O'Malley, the London-Irish scrum half, who came on as substitute for Garry, of Constitution. He got the ball away sharply from the scrum, harassed his opposing scrum half cleverly, and often broke through with the ball after the Ulster forwards had gained possession, but suffered through not being supported by the other backs on the side. There was more than one winger amongst the Munster forwards. Still, they managed to hold their own in the scrimmages, but had all shovelled they would have done better. The best were Bradley, Popham, Cunningham and Browne.