

# THE ENGLISH CUP.

## FIGHT FOR THE TROPHY.

### THE GREAT NORTHERN STRUGGLE.

#### A GRAND BATTLE THROUGHOUT.

#### HARD LINES FOR LUTON.

BY OUR OWN REPORTERS.

The great struggle between Luton and Sunderland in the re-play for the English Cup took place in County Durham on Wednesday. Enthusiastic sportsmen as the Northerners unquestionably are they seemed to evince even greater interest than is their wont in this tough tussle for supremacy. Sunderland invariably play before a good gate, but when they play a Cup-tie fixture on their own ground, the gate is greater still. And so it proved on Wednesday, wired a member of the "Luton Reporter" staff. It mattered not that the fixture was a mid-week one—Sunderland meant to see the match; Sunderland did see it. The majority of Lutonians, less fortunate, unable to get away or to undertake the long and expensive journey to the North, were more or less disconsolate in the morning. They could not see the game, it was certain. Well, then they would have to wait till their favourite "Friday Reporter" appeared, at least, so they thought. But no, not that. Even whilst they were soliloquising arrangements had been made in the "Reporter" office to meet the wishes and demands of the thousands of football enthusiasts in this town. With that enterprise and foresight which characterises the "Reporter," and which is now-a-days so conspicuous a feature of all successful newspaper offices, we decided to issue, immediately after the conclusion of the match, a special football edition. For this purpose members of our staff on Tuesday, undertook the long, tedious journey to Sunderland. All the afternoon the electric needle was busy flashing the report of the match through to this office. Telegraph boys flitted in and out incessantly, and the telephone bell tinkled more than once. Thus a very short time after the conclusion of "hostilities" all Luton knew the result of the great re-play. And all Luton bought up the special edition. Lutonians as they regaled themselves with their customary tea and toast after the day's labours, were able to read as full, as accurate, and as complete an account of the doings at Sunderland hundreds of miles away, as if the match had been played on the Luton ground. And they were pleased, very pleased, at the facilities afforded them.

So well did the team perform on Saturday that the Luton Directors decided to take the same players to Sunderland for the replay with Jones, Pickering and Latheron as reserves. The majority of the players left Luton at 3.53 p.m. on Monday afternoon, travelling on the Great Northern Railway. Included in the party were Messrs. G. Smart, H. Smart, W. Soper, F. Gibbs (Directors), C. Green (Secretary) and W. Lawson (Trainer). All looked fit and well and appeared to be quietly confident of the result. A small crowd gathered on the platform to wish them success, but no cheering was indulged in. The team arrived at Sunderland at about 11 p.m. and proceeded to the Roker Hotel, situated near Roker Park, the Wear-siders' ground, which they made their headquarters.

A party of eight enthusiasts, including Mr. H. T. Shackleton (a Director), and "Bob" Hawkes, left Luton (G.N.) at 3.53 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon. They travelled by slow train to King's Cross station where they caught an express in which they were whisked away up North, arriving at their destination at 11 p.m.

Dissatisfaction was expressed when it was found that Mr. J. Mason, who gave such a fine exhibition of refereeing last Saturday at Luton, would be unable to get away. It was felt that if the official in charge was not a first-class man the extra weight of the Sunderland team would tell to the disadvantage of Luton Town. But Mr. D. Hammond (of Heywood), who took his place, has been seen at Luton this season, where he gave an entirely satisfactory display.