

FOOTBALL NOTES.

Many of you will not have received your copy of the "News" this evening before we know if Luton Town still stand or have fallen at Coventry, and the game of last Saturday will be relegated to the limbo—or shall we say the mind's lumber room? Consequently it is not needful to write a lot about it here. We do not want to trouble over "what might have been" while there remains hope, and anyone who saw the match last Saturday will agree that there is room for great hope of the Town's success at Coventry.

It is almost impossible to conceive a struggle in which the respective periods were claimed by the two sides. Undoubtedly if Luton could have produced in the first half their form of the second there would have been no need for the journey to Coventry. I am not going to withhold from the Coventry men their due. Their two goals were lucky, but on the run of the play they were two goals better in the first half, but in the second there was no question that the Town were value for half-a-dozen goals—in theory. The inventory shows only two.

To what may be attributed the Town's first half failure? Let us look at the side. In the first place it was the biggest Cup-tie that half the team had ever experienced. The opposition was strange and comparatively unknown, and I quite believe that in the first half the Luton lads suffered from Cup-tie fever. So did some of the Coventry men, but not in the same proportion. Then there was Summer's "failure." It is a reflection on the goalkeeper to use that word, for it is not a just adjective. I spoke to him before the match, and although I did not express the opinion then, I was quite sure in my own mind that he was not thoroughly fit. I still think so, and to make matters worse, the crowd knew practically nothing about the severe rap on the head that he received when Coventry first scored. I am extremely sorry for Summers. His stay has not been at all happy from the playing point of view, and yet we know that he is a very fine goalkeeper. When the second goal was scored he went down to it mechanically, but he saw only a blur, and everything was moving, and that was the reason he missed the ball. He pulled himself together afterwards and made another particularly fine save, but, fortunately, he had little to do in the second half. He is too good a custodian to remain under a cloud long, and will come into his own one day.

The most astonishing feature of the game, however, was the inability of the home halves to cope with the visiting forwards in the first half, and they appeared incapable of stopping the visitors or helping their own forwards. It was a very different sort of tale in the second, and it was the sudden return to their best form which enabled the Town to have so much of the game in the second portion. Too much praise cannot be given to the Town halves for the work they did in this half, and the goal scored by Parker was really a reward for merit.

Of the forwards one cannot really say much in view of the consistency with which they fail to get goals. Even in the first half one could not say that a single forward played poorly, and every man was a trier, yet goals would not come, and very few shots were put in. It is useless

for me to harp on this question any longer. I should think Dodd is the only man who shows a disposition to bang the ball at goal when he gets a chance, and, if for no other reason, he deserves his place in the team. Roe also played wonderfully well, and his understanding with Sid Hoar brought across many centres. Bookman did not get the chances he should have, and the best use is not made of his speed. I hope that to-day the Town have won, and if they have adopted the style of their second half game at Luton I have no fear but that they have. It is the winning game—plenty of boot for the ball, and a grim determination to keep pegging away till the last second.

If the Town win either Liverpool or South Shields will come to Luton, and I am able on good authority to say that the Town directors will not sell their choice of ground.

Whitehead for Summers is the only change in the team to play for the Town at Coventry to-day.

Great dissatisfaction is felt by the Luton Amateurs "A" team that Flitwick cried off on Saturday. The Amateurs had made all preparations to go, but between 10 and 11 o'clock on Saturday morning received a phone message stating that the game was off. Surely some further explanation is due.

The Town team for the match at home with Exeter will not be chosen until to-morrow, and there will almost of necessity be changes whatever the result, for some players are bound to be in need of a rest. When the "Blues" went to Exeter they were unfortunate to lose by the odd goal in five, and they will make a bold bid for points on Saturday, for the position in the League is getting really desperate.