

UNLUCKY LOSS AT NORTHAMPTON.

Several motor chaudiere parties arrived back in Luton from Northampton on Saturday night assuring all and sundry that they were not downhearted. The defeat sustained at the hands of the Cobblers represents loss of another 2 points compared with last year's result, for last season the Town gained their first away victory at Northampton, but it was a most unlucky and unmerited defeat, and on Saturday's showing there need be no fear that the Cobblers will repeat last season's success at Luton next Saturday.

Both clubs had two changes in personnel from their Cup teams. In addition to the substitution of Butcher for Mathieson, the Town directors decided that Parker's recent lapse of form made another rest advisable, and Mo'vneux was tried at centre half and Arthur Roe once again introduced in the middle line. The Cobblers had Thomas and Freeman missing from the forward line. The teams were:—

Luton: Bailey; Lemmon, Tittel; Ree, Mo'vneux, Lamb; How, Higginbotham, Singus, Butcher, Bookman.

Northampton: Thorpe; Watson, Hewison; Grendon, Jobey, Tomkins; Pease, Churchman, Whitworth, Lockett, Tyson.

A very fair sprinkling of the Town club's support is journeyed by rail or road to join a crowd of 7,000, and they had plenty to enthuse about except goal-scoring in the first half. After the first ten minutes, the forwards and halves settled down to play very attractive football, and up to the change of ends never looked like doing other than winning. Butcher fed Bookman most effectively, and the outside left was again in tip-

top form, and provided his inside colleagues with sufficient chances to have made the result assured. Simms, in particular, missed two easy chances presented by Bookman's centres, heading wide with the goal at his mercy, and shooting off the mark on another occasion of an excellent opening. Thorpe was not nearly as often tested as he should have been from the frequent attacks Luton set up, but he was very lucky to have no score registered against him. On one occasion he ran out to clear, and kicked the ball on to Simms for it to rebound out of danger, and on another Simms netted from a centre by Bookman, but the referee ruled that the outside left had run the ball over the line before centring. The only narrow escape Bailey's charge had was from a flying shot by Whitworth, which was inches wide of the post.

In the second half Luton came nowhere near reproducing their earlier superiority. Bookman fell completely away with his centring, and the forwards seemed unable to do anything right. The effectiveness of the halves was impaired by an injury sustained by Molyneux to his thigh during the first half, and to make matters worse, Lamb had to go off with an injured leg as the result of being brought down heavily. While he was absent, Tirrell had the misfortune to slip and fall when he could have easily cleared, and Whitworth got clean through. Bailey darted out to try and stop him, but Whitworth succeeded in tricking him, and put the ball in the empty goal. This extremely lucky point came midway through the second half, and although Lamb afterwards returned Luton never really looked like recovering. The forwards were scarcely ever in the picture, and the defence did well to prevent the score advancing beyond the figure of

Northampton 1, Luton 0.

Luton ought to have easily won the game in the first half, when the feebleness of the shooting contrasted strangely with the midfield work of the forwards. It was one of Simms' unlucky days, and he could not get on the target. Bookman and Butcher were the better wing, but they deteriorated with the rest, and generally there seemed an air of over-confidence about the work of the forwards. Higginbotham was tricky, but Hoar did not get so much work as usual. The halves played exceedingly well until Molyneux and Lamb were injured. Roe was quite a success, using his head to excellent advantage and feeding the forwards with capital judgment. Lennon was vastly superior to Tirrell at back. Bailey had not a lot of work to do, but was very clever in keeping out some stinging shots.