

CONGRATULATIONS

Among the messages of good wishes and congratulations received before or after the game by Mr. Harold Wightman were the following:—

Before the game Mr. Wightman received from Mr. Brough Fletcher, **BARNSELY'S MANAGER**, a letter of best wishes; after the match came a telegram: "Congratulations on your splendid victory, from the directors, officials and players. Best wishes for future rounds. —Brough Fletcher."

Our player last season, **HARRY LOASBY**, now manager of Kettering, wrote: "Delighted that you are doing so well in the Cup. May the boys carry on the good work at Halifax, and then, who knows? At any rate, I wish you all the best of luck. Kind regards to you all."

On behalf of the **LUTON SUPPORTERS' CLUB** Mr. H. I. Godfrey wrote: "I would like to assure you and the team of all the good wishes and interest that will be with you at Halifax. Most fervently we hope that you will win or draw, but even if you lose we are proud of what you have done this season. It is just great. What pleases me so much is that the London Press is beginning to recognise that we exist. I only hope they will have something more to say about us this week-end."

DR. LESLIE BURGIN writes: "May I, as Member for Luton, hasten to send my congratulations on a magnificent performance. — Yours sincerely, Leslie Burgin."

Mr. **OLLIE SMALL**, from Torquay: "Congratulations on your great victory."

Mr. **BERT SANDERS**, now of Banbury, who played full back for Luton Town

forty years ago, wired: "Congratulations on the splendid victory. What about Wembley?"

From **MR. S. GIBBONS**, hon. treasurer of the Berks and Bucks F.A.: "Many hearty congratulations on your team's success yesterday. May I meet them at Wembley."

From **MR. T. ANDREWS**, Edgware: "Congratulations on the team's success. Re Everton v. Luton Town. Remember the Palace beat them 6—0. With all their Dixie Deans, you have got eleven good men that may repeat a further success. Peg away."

From a **LEEDS UNITED SUPPORTER**: "I would like to convey my best wishes to your Club on their great performances in their fight for the F.A. Cup. It is a great pleasure to see one of the Third Division sides making a great bid for the Cup, especially the Club I so often watched years ago. Before Saturday's game I was looking forward to Leeds and Luton having a great game, but it was not to be, so I am sending best wishes from a few Bedfordians down here for the success of Luton at Everton. They are not such a great team as to unnerve anybody, and we all hope to see Luton put the k.o. on them. We are all pleased with the reports of Alderson, one of our old players; best luck to him and to his team mates. I hope you will not object to my writing, only as one of the old Bedford boys I thought it would be a pleasure to voice my wishes and those of a few of Leeds United supporters. Sincere wishes and good luck to the management and players in their great fight."

CRITICS' PRAISE

Almost without exception the Northern writers give Luton all praise for their success, and these three are particularly interesting.

The first two are by different writers in the "Halifax Daily Courier":—

"Town (Halifax) were outplayed, and there could be no doubt that Luton deserved their victory. They were definitely the better team in all departments."

"They (Luton) were, in short, all-powerful, and Town (Halifax) at no period had looked like winners. Luton adapted their play to the conditions, and fully deserved their victory in a game which was spoilt by the wintry weather."

Hugh Whitfield, writing in the "Leeds Mercury," says: "The Luton attack was too bold and too clever for Halifax in this Cup battle at the Shay. They often out-generalled and out-maneuvred the Halifax forces. That is the clear fact that emerges from this match. The Luton Town forwards were immensely superior to those of Halifax. This was generally admitted by the sporting Halifax crowd. I heard no excuse made for the defeat, but only generous praise for Luton's skill, and a ready admission of the visitors' superiority."

"There was never any real doubt of Luton's superiority. Halifax were dangerous only in occasional raids, and their attacking moves lacked the cohesion and craft of Luton's. The best

that can be said of the home men is that they fought stubbornly and cleanly in a fine sporting game, and took their medicine without pulling a face about it. They were up against a big, powerful and clever side. No team will be able to treat Luton Town lightly in this Cup competition."

After referring to the defence, he adds: "But it was the clever combination, swift raiding and ready shooting of the forwards that impressed me most. Most interesting of all to me was the greatly improved form of Alderson, the inside-left, since his Leeds United days. This was a new Alderson—an Alderson who had shed all his awkwardness, and was wonderfully quick in picking up a loose ball and using it to the best advantage, either by a flick to his wing man or a through pass to his centre, Alderson, as they say, has 'come on a ton' since he left Leeds."

Mr. E. Dickinson, of Wakefield, the old Lutonian who wrote so enthusiastically of Luton's game at Barnsley, sent "Crusader" the reference culled from the "Leeds Mercury," and in a covering letter said: "Personally I thoroughly enjoyed the game. There was never a period when Luton did not appear to have the game completely in hand. I saw a number of old friends, and had a chat with Bob Hawkes, Dick Ward and Horace Day. If Luton keep up their form there is no reason why they should not appear at Wembley."