

# Ireland outpace the Scots

From **NORMAN BRUCE**—Murrayfield, Saturday

Scotland ..... 8 pts.      Ireland ..... 26

**I**N winning here today by four goals and two tries to a goal and a penalty goal, Ireland recorded her eighth successive victory against Scotland.

Apart from the spirit in which they went into the game, what impressed most about the Irishmen was their speed in backing up and covering.

It would be difficult to pick and choose among them, but there is praise for J. W. Kyle for his tactics; the almost perfect R. J. Gregg, at full-back, the intensive backing up of the centres, Henderson and Quinn, and the splendid way in which S. Byrne, playing in his first international, collected his two tries.

The Irish pack, not perhaps as devastating in the loose as one had been led to expect, showed that it could be rattled, as was seen in the Scottish second-half rally, but at all points Ireland had the game thoroughly under control.

This was seen at the line-out, where T. E. Reid and J. R. Brady were particularly effective, in the cleaner and quicker heel they gave from the scrums, and in the speed of R. Kavanagh and J. S. McCarthy in the open.

Of players of this type Scotland had none, and both forwards on the second row flanks could be faulted for giving the Irish backs far too much rope.

## Slow healing

Left with very little protection, and given a slow heel, K. M. Spence and L. Bruce Lockhart had a variable afternoon at half-back. Spence began well, but seemed to slow down, and Bruce Lockhart, while he dealt with a hurried and sometimes indifferent service as well as anyone could, was prone to pass wildly when under pressure.

Best of the Scots backs was T. G. Weatherstone on the right wing, and he became the home player most likely to break through the Irish cover defence.

Although he kicked a penalty goal and converted Henderson's try Thomson had an indifferent day at full-back, too often failing to find touch, a Scottish fault that was not confined to this player.

Ireland scored tries in the 16th and 30th minutes, through McCarthy and Kavanagh, both of them converted by Gregg.

They were another five points up in five minutes after half-time, Byrne crossing for Gregg again to bring out full points. A Scottish rally brought a penalty goal from Thomson, interrupted by a Kavanagh try, and continued by Henderson.

With Thomson converting this try, ten points once again separated

the sides, but Kyle put an end to any hopes of a Scots revival. He split the home defence wide open and Mortell crossed in the corner. Finally, Byrne rounded off a bout of passing. Gregg goaled.

**CRICKET**—South African Tour (Christchurch, N.Z.): Canterbury 345-6 (M. E. Chapple 165, Mansell 2-71), v. South Africans.

**SHEFFIELD SHIELD** (Melbourne).—Victoria 447 (Ray Harvey 121, R. N. Harvey 95, Hallebone 67; Outridge 5-78, Puckett 3-125). Western Australia 131 (Sarr 33; J. Hill 3-15, I. Johnson 2-23, Loxton 2-26) and 35-1.

*S. Times*

1/3/53.