

FOOTBALL RUMPUS.

From Roker Park springs the sensation that shock the world of football rigid - Sunderland were fined £5,000. Two directors, including one-time Mayor the Chairman, R.W. Ditchburn, suspended from all football management. Six players of Sunderland today, with former team-mates Chisholm and the ebullient, always-in-the-news Trevor Ford, are to be at a joint F.A. - and - League inquiry. Sunderland Chairman Ditchburn pulls no punches when interviewed:

Interviewer: "What action do you propose to take over your suspension?"

Ditchburn: "I am going to take every action that is possible, to protect myself and the club in particular, as the F.A. Rules are antiquated, and so much out of date. They can act as inquisitor, jury, judge and hangman; Even a criminal is taken to a court of appeal - but with the Football Association, No."

Even the stars of Soccer (this is young Duncan Edwards in full goal-getting form) even centre-forward genius Tommy Taylor - only get the maximum wage, £15. a week. Yet they pull in thousands at the gate. Matthews has a film star's following, on a bit-player's wage. So has Billy Wright. No wonder clubs seek ways of paying more.

At Fulham, Jimmy Hill, Chairman of the Players' Union has something trenchant to say:

Interviewer: "How does this Sunderland affair effect members of your Union?"

Hill: "If it draws attention to the fact that there has been money available in the game which could not legally be paid to players, I feel that it does indicate some fault in the system, and will materially benefit the cause of the Union...Any ambitious lad that is earning £15. per week in the game, and naturally enough would be looking for the next pound or two to add to his wages, has got to turn his attention outside the game".

Spurs goal-keeper Ted Ditchburn runs a ticket agency. Also not waiting for the game to discard him is Tom Finney. These men know that big time Soccer's a dead end. Ex-international Stan Mortenson tried running a fancy goods shop. His former clubmate, still at Blackpool, Matthews himself, kept a hotel for a time. Some old players gets jobs in the game; that great Welshman Ron Burgess is team manager at Swansea. Higher up, in the field of full management, failing thw

roost at Chelsea is the famous Ted Drake. But these are the fortunate few, as former Charlton manager, Jimmy Seed, would probably admit. The average player's on the scrape heap at 40. At football Association headquarters Secretary Sir Stanley Rouse firmly opposes under-the-counter payments to players. Now comes the new sensation. For the great John Charles an Italian club offers Leeds £65,000. of which Charles himself would get a cool £10,000. And at least £2,000 a year wages. That makes the F.A. maximum £15. per week look very sick!

As in all other entertainment Football could easily pay star wages to star players. If the Sunderland stir-up does nothing else it underlines the question - Do the big-time players get a square deal?

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