

from SqR.F.T and R 22/10/32

FIVES IN FOREIGN CLIMES

A CONSIDERABLE amount of Rugby Fives is played in South America, Madeira and St. Vincent CVI. on the private courts of the staff quarters of the Western Telegraph Co. (the South American Operating Company of Cables and Wireless Ltd.).

Very keen interest is maintained by the staff and on every station there are a considerable number of trophies for annual competition. Occasionally matches are arranged with H.M. ships and visitors who wish to test the standard of play, which is quite high, are always welcomed.

Some difficulty is experienced in getting Fives balls through the Brazilian Customs—at one time when a revolution was impending the Custom officials were under the impression that the balls were small bombs—but an amicable arrangement has been made to facilitate the clearance.

Anyone proceeding to Buenos Aires should take some Fives balls with them and display them prominently on the top tray of their trunks, as the last time on entering that port the Customs official saw some in the writer's trunk and asked for a present of one, which request was naturally acquiesced with, and resulted in the official gleefully bouncing the ball all round the Customs house and clearing the baggage without further formalities.

In Montevideo at the Cricket Club at Blanqueada, there are two bat Fives courts, and many strenuous matches are contested here, while Pelota, which has a little similarity to Fives, is also played. The natives should prove apt pupils at Fives if given proper facilities, and one hopes that in time the game may permeate to the general public of South America.

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