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THE NATION

At home, the week brought the biggest winter sales rush since before the war. While Britain's spivs and drones were keeping a date with the Labour Exchanges the nation's women queued for out-coupen and reduced price bargains.

Mass raids were made on stores all over Britain. Plenty of bargains were to be had, but once the crowd got inside, there was soon little left. Half a million women spent nearly a million pounds on the sales first day.

Many of the nation's women preferred the out-coupen "old look" to full rate "long length" designs. With nearly a million coupons handed over the counters, fashion experts can now go ahead with new styles. In London stores, the sales brought every woman her own problem. With renowned feminine tenacity many queued all night to be in the vanguard when the battle began.

For Britain's women, it was an exciting week. For 65,000 others - most of them male - the week's attraction lay at Twickenham, where a white-shirted England fifteen met the Australians in the last international of their tour. Having beaten Scotland and Ireland, the Wallabies lost their only international at Cardiff, where Bill Tomplin's penalty goals won the game for Wales. An 11:0 victory over England was now to be added to the Australian triumphs.

Prime Minister Attlee celebrated his 65th birthday at the match. He watched a game distinguished for great speed and hard, fast tackling. It was quickness on the ball and fast-thinking that won the match for the Australians.

Swarbrick almost scored before being hurled into touch.

England's threequarters were well away on several occasions. But a brilliant defence saved the Australian line every time.

Half time came with the Wallabies leading by 3 points to nil. Newman nearly scored with a penalty kick - but the ball hit the post.

In the failing light of the second half, the Australians' superior energy and team-work told. From 60 yards out, Walker gathered the ball and scored a second try in the far corner.

The Wallabies get away again. This time it was Cecil Winden, who with 3 men after him scored a brilliant breakaway try.

Tomkin makes the score 11:0. By not conceding a single try the Wallabies set-up a new international record.