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Revival of Cricket

A GREAT effort has been made this season to popularise cricket, which, as everybody knows, has been superseded, by the more exciting and strenuous games of lacrosse and baseball.

The rules regulating cricket have lately been revised, so as to make them more acceptable to all, and if the result be as anticipated, we shall see more of a sport that, although it may not, to the superficial observer, appear so, is in reality the best game, for all purposes, that could be indulged in.

While it gives sufficient exercise, there is nothing violent about it, which cannot be said of most other games, and for this reason can be participated in by the old and young with perfect safety—a feature in itself sufficient to restore it to popular favour.

The majority have not the desire—nor physical ability if they had—to play either lacrosse or baseball, but all need exercise, in one form or another, and nothing will supply that in a more agreeable and profitable way than cricket.

It develops, too, the social side of the player's nature better, perhaps, than anything else, as is evidenced by the harmony that invariably prevails at matches, in striking contrast to the "free fights," and rough tactics, that too frequently characterise games of lacrosse and baseball, and this should be another reason, and one of the greatest, why the game should be given preference to the others.

Admitted that the majority enjoy physical recreation of some kind, that exercise is necessary, and that to be beneficial, it should be moderate, and had under the most agreeable conditions, there is nothing, it appears to me, that will supply all these so fully and satisfactorily, as the good old game of cricket, which bids fair to occupy the position it once had, and should have, in the pastimes of the Canadian people.

A Royal Fireman

A NEW light on royal activities is afforded by an item in *Le Gaulois* (Paris) which reminds us that the late King Edward at one time served with the firemen of London.

Edward VII, at the time when he was the Prince of Wales, was a close friend of the Duke of Sutherland, who was so greatly interested in everything that pertained to the Fire Department of the English capital that he had constructed for his own use a fire-engine of the most recent type, and he had his domestic servants so trained that on occasion they could serve as firemen.

The Duke of Sutherland had made an arrangement with Sir Massey Shaw, who was in command of the London Fire Department from 1861 to 1891, to have his luxurious palace, Stafford House, connected by an electric bell with the central office of the Fire Department in London. Every time a great fire broke out in the capital, the Duke was immediately notified and steam was got up in the fire-engine. He sent a message to the Prince of Wales at Marlborough House, and as he went by he picked up his future sovereign and carried him to the scene of the fire.

When they arrived at the place where the fire was raging, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Sutherland never failed to put themselves under the orders of Sir Massey Shaw and carried out his orders like common firemen.

It was thus that the late King, from 1864 to 1876, took a share in putting out hundreds of fires.



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