

The Canadian Cricket Field,

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF CRICKET IN CANADA.

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The Canadian Cricket Field.

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CRICKET IN CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES.

There is a wide though not very unexplainable difference between the interest evinced by students of universities in this country and the United States and in England in the game of cricket. In the latter country there are but four universities, and consequently a vastly greater number of men at each institution who go in for the game than we have here, while—there the public school has already done the work of creating an interest in them. There students have less to do and more money than we poor colonials, and so can better afford to indulge their tendencies; and then again public support enables the impecunious to do their part. Here none of these agencies exist in anything like so marked a degree, and we are correspondingly behind hand. One circumstance that militates very strongly in any country against the developing of a strong university team is the length of the summer vacation. This holiday lasts over the whole summer, or more nearly, monopolises the cricket season, and so few others than those living at or near their college are on the eleven.

In this latter respect, Trinity College has the best chance of all Canadian colleges. Its vacation begins later in the year than that of any other, and it must be admitted that they take every advantage of the chance. Every year they open early and crowd in a good many games before July, and are well seconded in the efforts by their graduates, because these have already played as undergraduates on the same eleven. Then here again the majority of men who graduate in Arts go in for Divinity afterwards, and so keep up a longer active connection with their college. At the University of Toronto elevens are ephemeral, and depend for their numbers on men residing in the city. At the end of April work

begins for examinations, and May finds the students plentifully occupied in these delightful tasks. It is a noticeable fact that there are undergraduates of this institution on many of the country elevens, who, if they could be concentrated into one whole, would make a formidable phalanx. At Victoria College, Queen's and McGill, if there are cricketers we never hear of them in connection with their colleges, and so must suppose that as at Toronto, their strength is disseminated throughout the country.

In the States cricket has of late years become astonishingly popular at the universities. Of course it plays second fiddle to base ball, but all the leading colleges, such as Harvard, Yale, Columbia and Princeton have their elevens, and they play intercollegiate matches. Nothing is so strong an incentive to a college man to practise and play well as a prospective contest with a fellow institution, and especially in the States, where championships are struggled for and held on to with the greatest tenacity. There university cricket, it would seem, has taken a step further than in this country, where the game is left pretty well in the hands of professional and business men.

It is a great pity that more strenuous endeavours are, not made to produce really strong university elevens, for no young men here have so much time on their hands as college men during vacation. It is, no doubt, the means that stand in the way, and until they are forthcoming, until we have a wealthier class of men at our Canadian universities, we will hardly look to them for good cricket elevens.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The match at Upper Canada College last Saturday showed well what a great part is played by that institution in developing cricket. The best batting and bowling in Canada was there; and a stray tendril that has found his way to the States is about as good an all-round man as that republic can produce.

The following has at last appeared :

We, the undersigned, wish to state, with regard to the so-called cricket scandal in Australia, that we emphatically deny that there is any truth in the rumour that either we, or, as far as we know, any other member of the team, were offered a bribe to lose any of the Australian matches, nor did we hear any such report until after our arrival in England.

(Signed),

ALFRED SHAW, Captain.
JOHN SELBY.