

The Canadian Cricket Field,

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF CRICKET IN CANADA.

VOL. I.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1882.

No. 15

The Canadian Cricket Field.

Will be published twice in May, twice in September, and Weekly during the intervening months.

Correspondents are requested to send in contributions by the first mail on Monday to be in time for Wednesday's issue.

Subscription price, \$1.50 per annum, in advance.

Advertising rates on application.

All communications to be addressed,

THE CANADIAN CRICKET FIELD,

Box 347, Toronto, Ont.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 1882.

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THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM.

At the last moment the Secretary of the Association has been handed the refusals of four more of the original eleven, which, with the previous two, leaves but a small percentage of the favourites to represent us in the coming match. We presume that the reasons assigned are justifiable excuses, yet it seems rather hard that so many disappointments should have come about. It should be a very extraordinary occurrence that would deter a man from representing his country in an international struggle. WRIGHT would have a long way to go and GILLEAN cannot get away. STRATFORD will be near the scene of action at the time, though he cannot play because the Winnipeg captain was not asked, and BROWNING is the last delinquent.

In substituting the Committee have overlooked good men. BEHAN of course could not be induced to go at so late a date, and as no one perhaps should have been asked sooner this is least to be wondered at in his case. ROPER of Bracebridge should have occurred to them. The choice has fallen on LOCKWOOD, BOYD, HAMILTON, OGDEN, and HELMCKEN. The first of these has been doing well this year, and the next ought to do well. He was asked by the Doctor

to play for Gloucester this season, and refused on account of his coming to this country. He has fallen a little out of trim by living where there was no practice, but a week should put him in good form. HAMILTON'S will be as hard a wicket to get as any. OGDEN will be a source of great strength to the team, if he can be induced to play at this late date.

HELMCKEN'S choice may be attributed to two things: first, the narrowness of the field of information at the disposal of the Committee, and second, the disinclination engendered in the minds of some by the freezing out policy of this body. The choice of the last four men has been virtually in the hands of the Toronto members, who as a matter of fact, with one exception, know little of what has been going on in the country this season. The only other places represented on the Committee are playing two members each. True, STRATFORD and GILLEAN left the team weak in bowling, but it seems odd that HELMCKEN should have been selected when it is so notorious a fact that Toronto is very weak in trundlers. There are many good men in the country, such as ATKINSON of Chatham, who is also a good bat, DUDLEY of Napanee, SIMPSON of Galt, FRASER of Montreal, and many others.

If the Committee were more representative better men would be got, and the root of reformation will have been attacked when such an object is attempted. Four men from Toronto, and two from Guelph and Brampton, looks like monopolizing things, and shows rather a contempt for the abilities of outsiders. Montreal has been tabooed, and Ottawa never thought of, more because they are too far away to know about than for any other reason. Port Hope can furnish a man to replace one of Toronto's celebrities, and so could either of the teams in the final association tie, yet they have never been asked to suggest any one, though one of the two ostensible objects of the Association is to find the best men and the best eleven in the country, with a view to selecting a representative International eleven. The present choice is the selection by too limited a number, with too limited an amount of positive information in their possession.

The American team does not appear quite so strong as that of last year. The absence of LOWRY, the slow left-handed bowler, who did so much towards winning the 1881 match, weakens the team considerably from a Canadian's point of view. C. A. NEWHALL and LAW make the team very strong in fast bowling, but it is doubtful whether their combined efforts will be so effective as will LOWRY'S "peculiar." The Philadelphians have played very little