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A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF CRICKET IN CANADA.

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ASSOCIATION MATCHES.

One of the strongest arguments against the existence of the Ontario Cricket Association, or rather its policy with regard to matches, is that a club comparatively speaking weak has carried off the championship. We do not speak disparagingly of the Nelson Club, which has shown push and energy enough to place it where it is, and from that point of view deserves its reward, but at the same time it is not the best club in Ontario, nor anything like it. It may be contended that it is but a very minor object of the association to determine the best club, and that the idea is more to bring about cricket matches that would otherwise not be played. Against this the opinion of the Thamesville Club should weigh heavily, and it is this: they claim to have had less cricket and worse than if they had had the arranging of their own season's games, and will not for this reason enter the Association next year.

As a matter of fact, there have been very few matches brought about by the association this season. The winning club has played but three games, and no other club more. On the other hand, there have been five times that number of forfeits, and these have come about for the

reason that clubs cannot get their best team together for the occasion, and so prefer to scratch rather than take the chances of a defeat. This is not playing cricket for cricket's sake, but rather killing in preference to acknowledging the supremacy of your adversary, who, since he would bereave you of your laurels, is a veritable foe.

THE CANADIAN TEAM.

We give the names of the team to represent Canada in the coming International match on another page. SPRAGGE, LOGAN and KIRCHHOFFER have refused to play, and so numbers twelve, thirteen and fourteen have been moved up to fill their places. SPRAGGE is not in practice this year and has fallen off in his fielding, so that perhaps his substitute is quite as good as himself. LOGAN will be more missed than anyone, especially since the bowlers are few, and if GILLEAN should fail to come off, the American score will probably go somewhere into the double hundreds. Why OGDEN was not selected we cannot see. The fact of his being now a resident American hardly outweighs the fact that he has been born, brought up and lived eighteen years in Canada, and learned his cricket at Upper Canada College. He is in splendid bowling form this year, as evidenced by his record against the ex-day boys of his old college in June last. Without KIRCHHOFFER the team is without a captain, for this gentleman was chosen more because of his experience and generalship than for any other reason. That he is not playing is the fault of the secretary, who did not notify him till too late for him to upset his engagements in the North-West, though, expecting a place on the team, he waited a week to be told of his nomination.

SMITH is more an American than a Canadian citizen, for he hails from Colorado, and has lived longer there than on this side of the Niagara River. His having been selected in the face of OGDEN's being left off, points to a little inconsistency in the *modus operandi* for selecting men.

We can find no reason for GAMBLE's selection. He is out of practice, and did nothing last year. This year he only played once, and did nothing. HALL, of Guelph, would have been a good substitute, and there are many average bats whose bowling, in addition, would have made one of them a valuable acquisition to the team as it now stands. BEHAN, in practice, or as he is now, would have been a better man. DUDLEY, of Napanee, is a good all-round man, and sometimes a very destructive bowler, and is never much punished.

A better man than J. WRIGHT, of Toronto, could not be