

# CRICKET.

## DE MAUS TOPS THE AVERAGES AT REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES.



Herbert De Maus, this year's leading cricketer, is nigh on twenty-three years old, is two yards and two inches in height, and is a genial and popular fellow. He was born in Levuka, Fiji, and when a youngster was sent to Edinburgh, where the ground work of his education was laid. Still a boy he came to New Zealand in 1882, and started commercial life in the office of the *Eyttelton Times*, with which firm he is still connected.

De Maus learned his cricket entirely in New Zealand. He joined the Lancaster Park Club, Christchurch, about eight years ago, and rapidly advanced to senior ranks under the tuition of the Hon. E. C. J. Stevens and Mr. A. M. Ollivier, two famous Canterbury

reps. Possessing enormous reach and plenty of confidence, De Maus renders nugatory many a breaking ball that would be fatal to less resolute batsmen. His favourite stroke is between point and cover, but he is strong in all departments, and undoubtedly stands to-day first and foremost amongst New Zealand cricks. Against the first N.S.W. team he compiled 88, he and Wilding making a meritorious stand at a critical period. He has rendered yeoman service to his club, and has scored consistently in all representative matches. So highly were his talents valued that efforts were made by appreciative Canterbury supporters to secure him a place in the last Australian Eleven, but unfortunately the negotiations were fruitless. His recent performance against the second N.S.W. team, where he played a magnificent innings for 118, set the seal on his fame, and induced the highest eulogistic opinions from such capable judges as Mr. Coleman Davis, and the leading members of his team. In all representative matches for this season he has an average of 50, being by far the highest in the Colony. It may safely be affirmed that no Australian Eleven is complete without De Maus.

As a bowler he is, on a wicket that suits him, extremely dangerous, and in style and method somewhat resembles Ashbolt.

Gentlemanly, unassuming, and a thorough enthusiast, he is the beau-ideal of a popular hero. At the inevitable social his vocal abilities are always in request; for deep rolling nautical songs he is not to be surpassed.

## A Review of the Wellington Season.

The cricket season of 1893-94 in Wellington has been distinctly and decidedly a success. To this gratifying result the playing of two Senior Championship matches simultaneously

has mainly contributed; in addition, a team from New South Wales, under the management of Mr. Coleman Davis, paid us another visit after an absence of four years, and Auckland and Hawkes Bay also had elevens on tour. The only occasion on which Wellington contended on "foreign" soil was at Auckland, the result being a draw. The Championship matches excited the keenest interest and were well attended by the public. It is just to remark that in no other city in the colony are Saturday matches so well patronised as in Wellington; furthermore, liberal response was always made when our combined cracks appeared to represent the province, in the matches already indicated. Regarding these rencontres one is constrained to express regret at the prevalence of the custom of leaving them in an incomplete or technically "drawn" state. Spectators are apt, and rightly so, to deem them as mere time-wasters. In two out of five games in which our players were concerned did this unsatisfactory termination occur. Reform should clearly be agitated for in this direction if the alienation of the public support and sympathy is to be averted.

The first trial of strength took place at Auckland, it being one of the two draws alluded to. The veteran Cross was seen to advantage as was likewise Lash, who made his first appearance as a "rep." which was also, strange to say, his last. Unpropitious weather induced mediocrity and the game was ultimately abandoned in an even state.

At the second meeting of these Provinces, which eventuated here, an intensely exciting finish was witnessed, the visitors snatching victory, after many vicissitudes by the narrow margin of one wicket. It was here that Gore effected his memorable boundary catch. At a critical period he caught Lawson at the second attempt; at the first contact the ball was within, and when actually secured beyond, the boundary. The Umpire, Mr. Knapp, rightly ruled "no catch," and Wellington's last chance was gone. Ashbolt made a promising debut as a bowler, and the batting honours were carried off by Holdship and Gore.

The third appearance of our cracks was against the New South Welshmen. Ashbolt confirmed the favourable opinions formed in the previous match, and Holdship and R. Blacklock were the mainstays in the batting department. Cross, at the eleventh hour, displayed a glimpse of his Club form. The result was a draw slightly disadvantageous to Wellington.

At the fag end of the season the Hawke's Bay team were met and easily vanquished. Arthur Blacklock, Upham, and Ashbolt being the "leading characters."

In the match, New South Wales versus a combination of North Island, the local contingent did nothing worthy of record, with the exception of Upham, who bowled capitally. For the first time in our history the cricket strength of the colony was consolidated, the opposition being, of course, the team of New South Welshmen; Holdship and Gore constituted our quota, the selection giving rise to much adverse comment. Certainly, if averages are the test of merit and confer priority of selection Gore should never have gone South before Cross. The issue of the game was woeful disappointment. In the light of the display made by Canterbury and Otago against the visitors it was reasonable to predict triumph for the colony. The reverse was, however, the case, New Zealand being in the deficiency of 160. It is satisfactory, however, to be told by our conquerors that we would be capable of rendering a good account of ourselves on the other side. The idea of such a trip is now within the bounds of probability, and when it is fully matured Wellington will be found occupying a conspicuous place.

The introductory Championship matches, commencing on October 14th, were not characterised by extreme brilliancy. The Rivals after having a lead in the 1st innings against the Midland (which gambit they adopted throughout the season) failed lamentably at the second attempt, and suffered ignominy by eight wickets. The old-time trundlers, Upham and Fitz, were irresistible.

The Phoenix were also victims at their initial venture. As the season progressed they deteriorated with but occasional flashes of vitality.

The second series saw Cross shining with much refulgence, 88 being his tally, the highest recorded during the season.