

in this country. Some of them have the membership and the wealth to undo the damage, but there are others who are obliged to stick by an unsatisfactory layout for lack of funds. There was one such visited by an expert recently, and it was characterized as "hopeless." It was laid out badly at the start, and subsequent changes made the situation worse rather than better. To make this course over into what the expert would consider worthy of his skill would require double what already had been spent. Possibly it could be done in the manner Alec Campbell once suggested as the only way of improving a certain layout, that is, have an earthquake to change the configuration of the land and then use plenty of soil dressing.

There is a course not far from here where thousands of dollars have been wasted because some one, in ignorance of what a good golf hole embodies, put through several fanciful ideas, one of which involved the expenditure of \$12,000 for just one hole, which was played a short time and then abandoned. A large slice of this money was spent on the construction of a teeing ground which now serves as a constant reminder to the Club's green committee of how easy it is to throw away money.

Golf is a game where there is more chance for favorable or unfavorable comparisons of playing conditions than in almost any other sport which can be mentioned. The golfers, especially those who attain sufficient proficiency to make open tournaments an attraction, visit many courses. They soon recognize if their own is inferior to the average, and then begin to criticise or else use their influence to bring about a change. With many a club money is no object, so long as there is a satisfactory return upon the investment, the "return" in this connection meaning a first-class layout. Anywhere from \$50,000 to \$300,000, or even more, is spent on acquiring property, developing a course and erecting a clubhouse. The money invested in golf and country clubs in the United States runs high in the millions; how high would be simply a wild guess.

But the attitude of some men or clubs is reflected in one of the experiences of a prominent architect. He was sought out on this occasion by a man of wealth who had made up his mind that he would have a golf course on a large tract of summer resort property which he owned. He did not feel like accepting the task, for the reason that he concluded it was more a passing fancy than a real purpose, and that the course would be of inferior nature, hence reflecting little credit upon the architect, if not an actual discredit to his ability. His plan was to rid himself of the commission and at the same time to create no hard feelings by setting what he thought a prohibitive figure for his services. He named the figure and was taken aback when the response was:

"Oh, that's all right, perfectly satisfactory. When can you begin work?"

Subsequently the architect found that it was not an inferior summer course he was to build, but one of thorough up-to-dateness and about as interesting an engineering problem as he ever tackled. The sum of \$100,000 in round figures has been spent on that links up to the present with most pleasing results.

So many links are in course of construction that a great field is open to the course architect, but a field which demands close application and scientific knowledge.—*The Evening Post*, New York.

#### "PIZEN"

One of the members was walking over the same course with the chairman of the green committee and he intimated that there was a great deal of trouble to be encountered. Finally they came to an old stone ruin which had been permitted to remain, with sloping grass banks on all sides, and it provided an excellent hazard. The chairman observed that to make it appear more picturesque, vines were to be planted around its crumbled walls.

"Why not make it poison ivy, and give us all the trouble you can?" drily retorted the other.