

Modern Golf Chats

By A. W. TILLINGHAST

IT has been said that the reputation of a course depends upon the character of its one-shot holes, and while there is much wisdom in this observation, there are other features which either make or break a course. No matter how excellent the distances may be or how fortunate the location of the putting greens, or how cunning the placement of the hazards, if great care is not taken in the building, the course never will be notable. For instance, a putting green which may be most impressive in some country, might be duplicated in another section where it would be without distinction and out of place. This also applies to hazards, and it is of these that I will devote a bit of space this month.

Let us assume that we have found a most excellent spot for a hazard. Without a doubt any one of several types would exact its just penalty, but there must be one distinct type best suited to this particular place. We must not permit the lines of our hazards to clash with the surrounding country.

They may remind us of the houses of the *nouveau riche* in which are to be found in the same rooms a riot of decorations, a lurid Navajo rug quarrelling with the portieres, or a Japanese screen distinctly unfriendly with the Chippendale chair.

So it is on our courses. A rugged, dune-like creation which well might find a place on a seaside course, would be quite out of harmony with gently undulating meadow land. To be sure, the formation in each instance might be similar, but the lines should be different. Each particular locality supplies its own models for mound work, and in designing them the architect ever must keep the surroundings in mind.

Tracts broken up by grassy hollows and mounds are effective and picturesque on inland courses, but along a bleak coast the same formation might be utterly undesirable; in any event, the design would have to be conceived in a more rugged fashion. Often upon some

courses we find it desirable to change completely our types where immediate surroundings vary. For instance, one fairway, extending along a valley meadow, might find a hazard area coming to meet it in friendly undulations, but perhaps a few hundred yards distant a gaping quarry hole would have as its neighbors pits of equally severe aspect.

Of course, nothing could be more grotesque than the precise kop-bunkers of other days. Then, no matter where the course happened to be, these coffin-like formations were placed with precision. After a while attempts to imitate Nature were observed more frequently, but even now this inclination is far too infrequent.

In 1911 I planned the course at Shawnee. On the hole which is illustrated in this issue, a considerable area was broken up by grass mounds and hollows. Every effort was made to have them appear like a natural formation, and when they had been thrown up, the workmen were made to walk all over them in order to obliterate any regular lines. This huge grass hazard has proved to be very effective, and I can recommend a similar treatment in any section where it is found desirable to have forbidden ground of considerable extent.

Such mound work is not costly to produce. It is simply a matter of staking out the base lines of the mounds; figuring the proper distances between the bottoms of the finished mounds, and then digging from one to the other, throwing up the earth between the stakes. At first there undoubtedly will be a tendency to get these staked sections too close, and when the various slopes meet, there may be not sufficient room to permit the player to swing his club properly. Of course, the floor between the mound bases should be broken up, too, for it is not intended that the player should be able to play out without difficulty, but at the same

(Continued on page 31)

Modern Golf Chats

(Continued from Page 28)

time he should be given every opportunity for getting his club back without hindrance.

The question of surface drainage must be considered, and the whole floor of a similar area must be modeled in such a way as to include the natural drainage from one end to the other, and although immediately after the first rough work is completed, and before seeding, there may appear to be moist spots after a rain, these should cause no apprehension, for the water will be carried away more readily when all is covered by grass.

The usual attempt at mound work usually results in horribly symmetrical "chocolate drops," with an arrangement which suggests the display in a confectioner's shop window. Yet it requires no more work and no more expense to build along natural and effective lines. There is a great deal of horse sense in golf architecture, after all, and imagination, too.

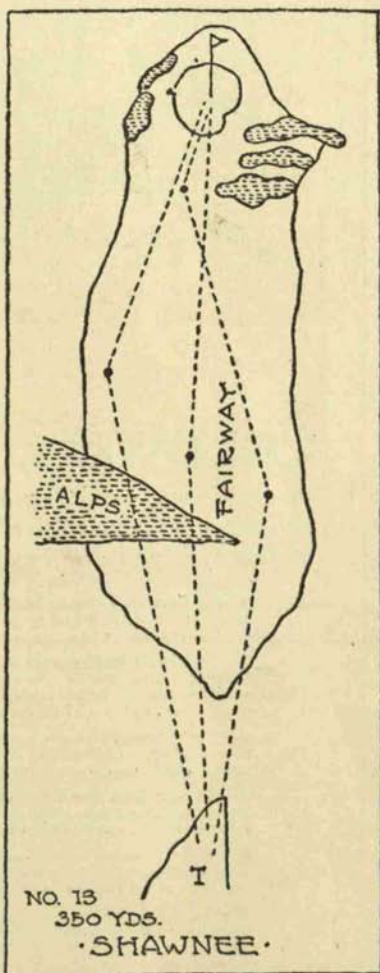


An up-to-date variation of solid mound work. Here the rough sides have been turfed, but the sand has been introduced to relieve the monotony and tufted grass planted in an attempt to imitate dune growth. Lyme grass is admirable for this purpose.

The Shawnee Course was laid out by the writer some five years ago. In the hole represented the area marked "Alps" is broken up by rugged mound work, and presents a very stiff carry from the teeing-ground. It will be observed that one route to the hole finds nothing to be carried at all, but in taking this road the conservative player requires three strokes before the green is reached in safety.

A unique feature is the diagonal teeing-ground, one hundred feet in length,

which not only permits of lengthening the carry, but also makes it possible to change the angle entirely.



From the sketch it may seem that a long second from the fairway opposite the Alpinization should find no great difficulty in holding the green after successfully clearing the guarding pits, but it must be remembered that the slope to the flag from this angle makes the effort dangerous. The approach should come "straight-on" or, better still, slightly from the left. If a long, wild drive clears the mound district, which is very unlikely, the rough on that side is troublesome.