

## Willie Park

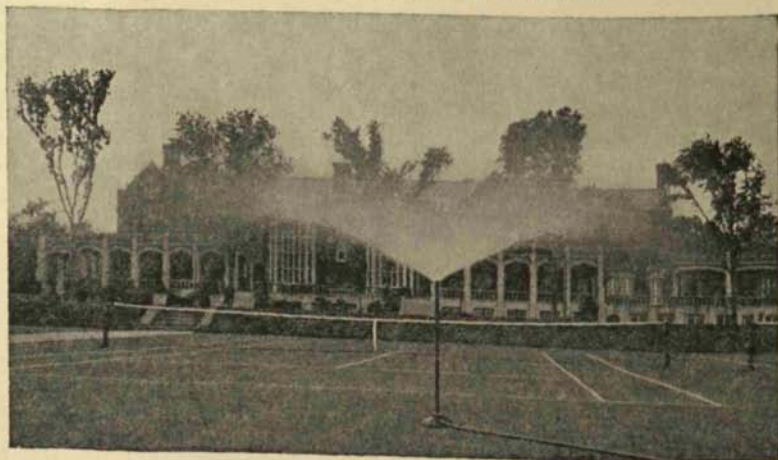
AMERICA has good reason to congratulate herself on the acquisition of another really high-class golf architect in the person of Willie Park. Although Park is quite well known here, we think that a brief account of his career will be of general interest.

Willie Park was born in 1864 at Musselburgh. His father was four times open champion of Britain, beginning at Prestwick in 1860, and ending at the same place fifteen years later. His uncle, Mungo Park, upheld the family honor in 1874. From such a family of golfers it is not surprising that Willie Park, junior, should prove an apt pupil. After becoming of age, young Willie, as he was called, took up the task and in 1887 annexed his first championship after some sensational play. Two years later he won again, although it was necessary to play off a tie with Andrew Kirkaldy.

Since 1889 no championship fell to his lot other than the opposition championship held at Musselburgh in 1892, but he won many great victories in matches with such redoubtable players as J. H. Taylor and Ben Sayers. Later he played on the Scotch team against England in 1903-04-05-07-10. Strangely enough, although Park had the reputation of being the best putter in England, a miss of a yard putt lost him a tie with Vardon for the open championship in 1898.

During all this time Park was busily engaged in the golf supply business and in connection with this work he gradually entered the field of golf architecture, and made it his special study. His first important course was Sunningdale and Huntercombe, Worplesdon, Coombe Hill, La Boulie, Lombardside and many others followed in rapid succession. These courses are lasting monuments to his great skill and are considered among the finest in the world.

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