Memories of the Golden Days at Edinburgh

ED FITZJOHN, veteran pro at the Albany (N.Y.) CC, comments in a nostalgic vein on the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers article that appeared in June GOLFDOM:

"That club was my home for 23 years. There my father was clubmaster or manager, going with them from Musselburgh in 1879 and removing to Muirfield in 1890. There my father was clubmaster or manager. Going with them from Musselburgh in 1879 and removing to Muirfield in 1890, there my father was clubmaster or manager.

Four other famous golfers played many a time with them in matches. They were the winners of the Company: G. A. Johnstone, W. J. Todd, A. Simpson, and G. Cameron. The three medalists of the Company.

Last year, despite curtailed activities, was a very successful financial year and from the looks of the first 6 months of 1944, our net results will exceed most of the flush years of the twenty's.

"We must however, take into consideration the fact that very few clubs are making capital expenditures due to the scarcity of materials. It should behoove the clubs to set aside a cash reserve, on a monthly basis, to cover replacements and repairs after the war."

"There is no question in my mind that present conditions has taught the club manager economical operations and it will be fine experience in years to come. It has taught us that it is possible to operate a club successfully without a lot of things we thought essential; simplification of menus; a much closer contact with the operating staff; the finer details of club management and what a great help your Board of Directors and members can be under these trying times."

"Clubs are being operated today on a more business-like basis and the net financial results in most clubs prove this fact."

and science of instruction. I played my first championship over Muirfield in 1895, the year Harry Vardon won his first British championship, beating J. H. Taylor in the playoff after a tie.

"Those were the days of Freddie Tait, Johnny Ball, Harold Hilton and many other prominent amateur golfers. The prominent pros of those days were Kirkcaldy, Willie Fernie, Willie and Hughie Auchterlonie, Archie Simpson, Ben Sayers, Willie Park, Jr. and others; from all of them I got much valuable instruction and much experience in competition."

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I got my experience in golf while there. I went through every department of the business, such as club management, club and ball making, greenkeeping and learning the fundamentals of golf in developing my game and acquiring the art of golfing, going with them from Musselburgh in 1879 and removing to Muirfield in 1890, where he died in 1895.

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