Mackall Tells Plight of the Green-Chairman

HENRY C. MACKALL, green-chairman of Minikahda Club, Minneapolis in a report made to the club’s members, tells, in the meter of Longfellow’s Hiawatha, of the tendency of the ambitious green-chairman to alter the course.

The first stage is having a course plenty good enough for holding championships. Then the course is toughened with alterations that

“Made the golfers very angry
‘Till they rose in wrath and cursed him.
“Smote the earth and dug up divots.
“So finally he yielded to them;
“Filled up bunkers, widened fairways,
“Watered greens to make a pitch shot
“Else the golfers couldn’t make one.”

After the softening alterations which

“Made the course just like the golfers,
“Soft and easy, slow and pleasant,
“Nice to look at, free from trouble.
“Anyone could score upon it.”

Mackall philosophically concludes:

“Now the moral of this saga
“Of this tee and fairway story,
“Is the fact that we Americans
“Think that life is like a golf course
“And we want it nice and easy,
“Rough all cut and fairways widened,
“Bunkers filled and lies all grassy,
“Winter rules to make shots easy,
“Handicaps more like our ages.
“Everyone can win the sweepstakes.
“Tees all shaded, benches on them,
“Lest we tire from our labors.
“Telephones to keep from walking,
“Cola stands and water coolers,
“All for comfort, naught to toughen.
“‘Tis the American way of living,
“‘Tis the way we’ve raised our children.”

“Now they and we are paying for it.”

August, 1942
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