

THE GOLF COURSE

A MONTHLY BULLETIN DEVOTED TO THE DISCUSSION OF MODERN METHODS AS APPLIED TO GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION AND UPKEEP

Modern Golf Chats

By A. W. TILLINGHAST.

HAVE you ever seen a plowboy come to town, all dressed up in a suit of clothes which had been marked "Nobby" in the window of a Cross Roads General Store? He looked all right at the Cross Roads, but his appearance was ridiculous among people who wore up-to-date clothing.

America was becoming dotted with ready-made golf courses of the Cross Roads style, until a few enterprising men visited real courses and, realizing the absurdity of their own links, started in the work of tearing down and rebuilding.

To-day the Cross Roads golf course is something of a curiosity.

It may seem curious that early American golf courses were laid out on such puny scales and along such unintelligent lines. The game was biff and bang, with little else to think of; no problems to solve. But after all it is not so much to be wondered at. Our early players were faddists whose conceptions of golf were exceedingly crude. How could they be expected to appreciate the finer points of the game as did those in the old country, where golf had been played for so many years?

It is not necessary to attempt a

description of those early American courses, with their featureless greens, mathematically correct and symmetrical bunkers and the ridiculous little band-box teeing grounds. They are of the past, but they served their purpose. The golf courses which we Americans are constructing to-day are very different, and so carefully are they built, after a thoughtful preparation of plans, that some of our productions are not surpassed even in the old home of golf.

For a long time the greatest obstacle in the way of modern courses in America was the opposition of the mediocre player. He fancied that any attempt to stiffen the courses must make them so difficult that the play would be beyond his powers. But now he realizes that the modern golf architect is keeping him and his limitations in mind all the while he is cunningly planning problems which require the expert to display his greatest skill in negotiating holes in par figures. We are planning and building not to penalize very poor strokes, but rather those which are nearly good. If our holes are of proper distances as dictated by natural conditions the duffer who misses a stroke cannot be figured as

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The GOLF COURSE

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PETERSON, SINCLAIRE & MILLER, INC.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

CARTER'S TESTED SEEDS, INC.

R. O. SINCLAIRE, *Editor*

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THE publishers find great satisfaction in presenting to the Green Committees of America the first number of *THE GOLF COURSE*, a monthly publication which we feel assured will be welcomed by the men who control the destinies of our golf courses, for in it they will find specially prepared, authoritative articles from the pens of those who are acknowledged to be at the head of their professions.

In every section of the country new courses are being built and old courses reconstructed along scientific lines, which received but scant consideration about five years ago. Nowadays turf is produced and maintained to such a high degree of excellence that the early efforts are made to appear amateurish by comparison. Golfers everywhere are critical and fastidious, and no longer are they content with the primitive courses of early days.

Naturally the Green Committeemen, desirous of providing golf of the highest type for the players of their clubs, are hungry for such information and advice as will enable them to produce the excellence which the modern game demands. It is this fact which prompts the presentation of *THE GOLF COURSE*.

We have not attempted the work hastily, nor were we prepared to send forth this initial number until we had succeeded in securing the co-operation of those who are acknowledged to be master craftsmen of American golf. Their contributions are not theoretical, for each speaks with the knowledge gained by ripe experience.

By their fruits do ye know them!

We take great pleasure in the distinction which we, ourselves, have gained in all parts where golf courses exist. For many years whenever golf turf of super-excellence has been spoken of, the next breath carries the name of Carter's Tested Seeds. The methods are not experimental, and for the proof of the quality of Carter's turf, one has only to investigate the greens of the most famous courses in America and Great Britain.

Years ago there was discovered a rich deposit of vegetable matter which had been decaying throughout thousands of years. After drainage and careful cultivation, Rex Humus was placed on the market. Everywhere it was subjected to severe comparative tests, and it was found to be entirely free from any chemical preparation, and possessing only remarkable natural properties for the building of soil and the stimulation of plant life. This instantaneous and lasting success was none too agreeably received by competitors, and their futile efforts to belittle the excellence of Rex Humus have served only to strengthen an already well fortified position.

By our fruits do ye know us!

Our purpose is to present tested excellence in everything, and, in a nutshell, this tells of our reasons for sending *THE GOLF COURSE* on its mission to you. If it finds favor in your eyes and helps you in your work, we shall feel amply rewarded.

THE PUBLISHERS.

PROFESSIONALS and green-keepers frequently request us to advise them where they can secure situations. We shall be glad to furnish the names of competent men.

Winter Kill of Putting Greens

By PETER LEES.

(Formerly of MID-SURREY, RICHMOND, ENGLAND)

TO a great many Green Committees, "Winter Kill" of putting greens is a very serious matter and one which has to be faced to a greater or less extent every Spring. Putting greens of the punch bowl variety, those that are situated on low-lying ground where drainage is poor, are especially apt to get this "Winter Kill." Drainage, undoubtedly, is the solution of the question.

Whenever such conditions prevail, steps should be taken at once to get rid of the water so that it will not remain and freeze on the surface of the green. Even if it should not be cold enough to freeze, it should not be allowed to remain on the greens during the cold months, as it is most injurious to the grass.

Opinions naturally differ as to the best means of overcoming this difficulty, and the suggestions which follow should be understood to be methods which I have found from experience will give better results than any others which I have tried. There are, of course, many other good ways of arriving at the same result.

As has already been pointed out, the key to the situation is drainage—surface drainage pure and simple. My first suggestion is to put in a number of "soakaways," which may vary in number with the conditions which prevail. These "soakaways" should be placed so that they will draw the water from a certain area around them. They should be about four feet in diameter and, say, ten feet deep. There is no hard and fast rule regarding the size of these "soakaways" and the greenkeeper should be able to judge just what is required for each particular green. The "soakaways" should be filled to about ten inches from the top with either gravel or ashes, the latter being best, and the remaining

space filled with topsoil and the turf replaced.

Usually there is no play during the bad weather when conditions similar to the above prevail, and if so, I would suggest that a part of the turf and topsoil be removed so as to give the water all possible chance of disappearing rapidly, replacement being made in the Spring. I have found this remedy to work very well.

Another way is to drain the green, herring-bone fashion, with a main drain running into a "soakaway" placed at some convenient spot outside the putting green. Four-inch agricultural drain pipes are used and covered over with ashes, the pipes being placed ten inches below the surface. Open the ground here and there on the drains, as in the way I pointed out in the case of "soakaways."

Where the level of the ground lends itself to direct drainage "soakaways" can be dispensed with altogether and the water drained into an open ditch, lake, or low-lying part of the course.

In conclusion, I wish to bring out very strongly the necessity of getting rid of the water at once and do away with any possible chance of it accumulating on the surface. I think if either of the foregoing suggestions were carried out in a systematic manner the question of "Winter Kill" would rapidly disappear, much to the relief of Green Committees and greenkeepers alike.



Golf Course Critics and Cranks Golf Architecture

By LEONARD MACOMBER.

THE critics of golf courses are numerous. Every club swarms with them, and those who know the least usually talk the loudest.

There is the "length" crank for whom no hole is fit to play which is not one full short, or two, or three, as the case may be. Then there is the "perfect lie"

crank, who thinks that every good shot—and most bad ones, for that matter—ought to be rewarded by a billiard-table lie. Another crank has been to a seaside course, the National Golf Links, or St. Andrews in Scotland, or Sandwich, and has seen some good golf holes and has heard them discussed, and he comes back to his inland course on heavy clay soil—perhaps a beautiful natural one—and wants to transform its beauties into a tinsel imitation of the seaside article.

He has heard that trees are bad hazards, and he condones nothing which is not to be found on seaside links. He wants to cut them all down and put up some "proper" bunkers. This man knows the rules and what is not provided for in the rules is not golf. Of all cranks, this crank is the most pestilent. He has no imagination, and is therefore past convincing.

Then we have the crank who is dead against putting in more bunkers, traps, etc., because he will not be able to go around in the eighties any more, but if he knew that it would only improve his game in time, he would probably take an entirely different view.

The fact is, anybody can criticize but very few can create. There are thousands of people who can sit upon the great novelist, or the artist, or the poet, but how many can write such a book or paint such a picture, or inspire such a poem?

It is just the same in golf architecture. The architect must be born, not made. When you get him, you are surprised to find how few "rules" he has—how he sweeps away your hard and fast formularies and outrages your cherished principles. He looks to nature for his inspiration and tries to fit his golf to his surroundings, and not to destroy his surroundings for his golf. If there is natural beauty he tries to retain it and to make the whole picture harmonize. In this way, by cunning devices, he makes the "bad length" hole into a thing of beauty and the man who has "placed" his drive as it must be placed and has got in that dainty ap-

proach up to the hole is as pleased as if he had hit the two "screamers" of his life.

All holes cannot and ought not to be like this. Length, and plenty of it, is necessary to any good course, but allowing this, it is the beauty of the approach and the green that mostly impresses the mind. Let any golfer think of the principal courses over which he has played and his conclusion is: the holes which he instinctively remembers are those which have a difficult and artistic finish, and it is just this artistic individuality which tells you that the genius of the golf architect has been present. And after all, Mr. "Length" Crank, where are your mathematics when the wind blows, or the ground is dry and hard?

Of course this is partly offset now in building new courses by constructing at least two, and better still, three or four tees at every hole, or one long tee perhaps fifty yards in length.

No great golf architect and no great player wishes for uniform billiard-table lies, which are often found on some of our Western courses, especially around Chicago where it is hard to find rolling country.

Half of the most subtle strokes in golf are brought out in the overcoming of variations in the lie, stance and distance, and it is here that the real standard of a golfer asserts itself.

To the sincere critic, then, always make your suggestions to your committee. They will welcome them if they are good, and do not forget that there are two sides even to a question on which you may hold strong opinions. To those in charge of golf courses it is well to encourage discussion by all who are competent to discuss. One happy idea may make a poor hole into a good one.

And finally, whether you have length or not, always aim to make your holes interesting and your finishes artistic, getting away from any artificial or pattern design.

To the man of uniformity and cast-iron principles—take up some other subject.

Green Keeping Notes for Winter Months

DURING the Winter months prepare composts, when the weather permits, for use in topdressing the important parts of the golf course systematically during the growing season.

Composts should be allowed to stand in the heap or pit for about a year, or better still, two years, and they should be made up, where the soil of the course is heavy clay, of foot layers of the best sweetened loam obtainable, sand, and manure or humus—and where the soil is light, it is not necessary to include sand. Leaves and old sod and cut grass can be added.

This is a good time to do any clearing of new ground, cut down trees, and haul sand to bunkers—also to manure any thin places on the fair greens with rotted stable manures or composts and allow the dressings to stand until Spring.

Never sweep snow from greens. Snow cannot be classed as a manure, but it has a very beneficial effect upon turf, as it protects it from the extreme cold and keeps it comparatively warm.

Let your greens rest for the Winter just as soon as the surface becomes slimy and muddy, alternately freezing and thawing, and they should not be played on in the Spring until the frost is entirely out of the ground.

The old-fashioned idea of covering putting greens in the Winter with straw or manure has gone by. Grass does not suffer from the cold as much as from the hot weather. Winterkilling generally takes place in the early Spring where the surface drainage is not correct and water standing in the low spots alternately freezes and thaws.

Order your Grass Seed early for future shipment to cover your Spring requirements, and always buy the best, which is the cheapest in the end.

Carefully study

CARTER'S "PRACTICAL GREENKEEPER"

The Punker's Lament

Don't build us any bunkers;
Don't dig us any pits;
We're a legion of golf Punkers;
Hazards scare us into fits.
We much prefer a fairway
Of the bowling alley type,
Like falling down a stairway
As we slice or pull a swipec.

Our course was built by Willie Ken
'Way back in 'ninety-two;
Since then it's been once altered, when
We cut the vistas through.
If water hazards trap us
We pick out by local rule;
The ditch, likewise, on Number Five;
Also the Home Hole pool.

Have I not seen the National?
And Garden City, too?
Their plans are most irrational,
Not like our River View,
Pine Valley is another Hell,
Designed by that mad Colt,
With dog-leg propositions, well,
The place gave me a jolt.

You may talk about your places
Where a *golfer has to play*,
And to your very faces
"It isn't golf," I say.
You can't tell *me* that it is fair
To make one *hit* the ball,
You dig your hazards everywhere—
My shots are sure to fall.

If I should chance to miss a shot
I can't get home, you say;
Now that's what I call bloomin' rot,
Look here! It's golf I play—
The golf that Punkers like to see,
And I can prove it, too,
If some day you will go with me
To our dear River View.

A. W. T.

in "THE AMERICAN GOLFER"



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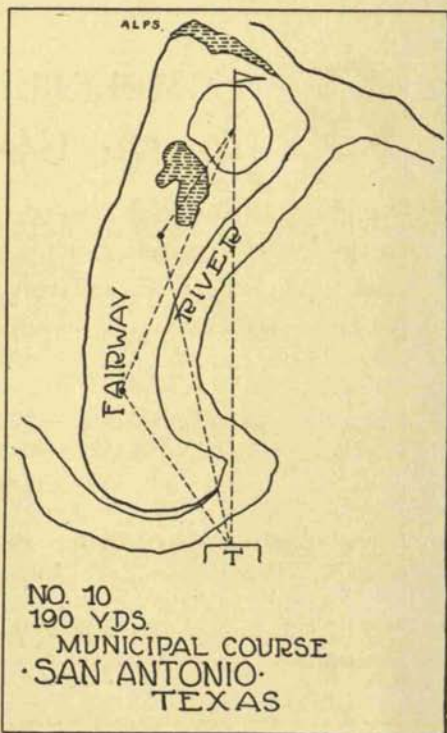
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a serious factor, so why add to his discomfort?

"But how may this be accomplished?" is a most natural question for you to ask. Let me attempt a simple and brief explanation, for in the limited space of these tabloid articles, elaborate analysis is impossible. Instead of relying on hazards which extend directly across the line of play we are building them diagonally. It is obvious that these diagonal hazard lines present a much longer carry at one end than at the other, and all carries between the two points vary. In the placement of the short carry we consider the light hitter, and as he stands prepared to play at such a hazard, he is to be the judge of the distance which he may successfully attempt. After a while, as he finds his game improving, it is natural that he becomes more ambitious, and he attempts greater things which he knows will be adequately rewarded, for the hazards guarding the approaches to the green are placed in such a manner as to grade the benefits of length and accuracy. In brief, every player gets exactly what may be coming to him and it is not necessary for anyone to bite off more than he can swallow.

The old-fashioned 'cross bunker always leers at the player with a "You must." The modern diagonal hazard shows even a more ferocious face at one end as it says to the scratch man, "You should." But all along the line to the short end it is saying, "You may."



The accompanying sketch of a one-shot hole, which the writer recently laid out on the municipal golf course of San Antonio, Texas, illustrates the diagonal carry. Here the courageous drive finds the green, but there are other carries of the river which prove a hardship to none.

In subsequent issues I shall attempt further explanations of why modern golf construction is taking care of every class of player.



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THE plans for this less strenuous form of golf are prepared by A. W. TILLINGHAST, who has laid out many courses of distinction. An accurate working-model in plasticine, showing every undulation and hazard, is created after either a personal inspection of the ground or a study of sketches or charts. LILLIPUTS are planned to occupy any space

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THE COLDWELL "THREESOME"

We call your particular attention to the features mentioned hereafter, as they are absolutely essential to a perfect machine of this type and are *found only in the Coldwell "Threesome."*

1—All gears and axles of drive wheels are run in dust proof grease cases, which only need filling once in four or five months. This means easy draft, long life to the machine and a great saving of time.

2—The **Back Rollers** are made in three sections, which insures against tearing the lawn when turning circles. These rollers are each provided with bronze bearings, turning on a hollow grease-filled shaft. This shaft, once filled, needs no further attention for months.

3—The **Drive Wheels** have malleable hubs, steel spokes, wrought-iron rims and are made fast to shafts which turn on ball bearings inside the grease case. (All wear easily, taken up from inside of case).

4—**No springs are necessary** to keep the back roller from jumping up, as the Lawn Mowers are swung from the main frame by large friction surface hangers, which hold it down.

5—A single lever at the operator's right enables him to lift all three cutting knives free from the ground at once. It also permits him to throw out of gear all three revolving cutters without leaving his seat.

6—The weight of the super-structure and operator is evenly divided over the three Lawn Mowers. The combination of the carrying frame and a very simple draw rod mechanism makes one of the most desirable features of this machine, and it is this combination that makes absolutely positive the accurate position of the rear machine relative to the two front machines, insuring at all times, and under all conditions, the proper overlapping of the cuts. This valuable feature is found only in this machine.

Summarized, the salient points of this machine are:

Cuts a swath 87 in. wide. Is strongly built and of the best material for the purpose.

The most flexible machine of its kind on the market.

All three machines can take absolutely independent and wide ranges of levels.

It has good liberal platform for carrying stones, or other obstructions from the field, which platform is much closer to the ground than in other machines.

An ample tool box; adjustable seat.

All Mowers interchangeable and can be used individually, as Horse and Hand Mowers.

All working parts absolutely covered and protected from the weather.

This style of machine is designed for cutting wide swaths on grounds that are settled and dry, also where rolling and fine cutting are not the first consideration. On fine lawns where the turf is right and where pride is taken in having fine cutting and a beautiful velvety surface, free from horse marking, streaks, etc., there is only one type to use, that is the motor-driven Lawn Mower, which rolls the lawn every time it is cut. We make several varieties of this type, including both the "Walk" and "Ride" types, circulars of which we will be pleased to furnish on application.

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