

The Death Valley course, 178 ft. below sea level, is a triumph of turf engineering, for it is an all-grass course.

California Coastal Mountain Region Invites Golf Growth

By ARTHUR LANGTON

A DISTRICT of wealth, beauty, and a few fine golf courses, the future of which is roseate because of the richness of natural gifts, describes briefly that physiographic division of California known as the coastal mountain region. This area is included in the 400 miles along the coast between Ventura and Santa Barbara on the south and the San Francisco Bay region on the north. Rugged in general contour, but with pastoral lands and fertile valleys containing numerous soils interspersed among mountain peaks, this section composed a unique region in which superlatives are characteristically descriptive.

Discarding the resort pamphlet description for the time being, there are few golf courses in this large expanse of territory because previous unavailability has made for the development of but few towns. The numerous mountain chains running diagonally toward the sea have made extensive road building impractical. However, the Roosevelt highway, now under con-

struction, will allow easy access to a region which has been but sparsely settled, and for this reason one may look forward to the construction of several golf courses in the not too far distant future.

Padres with Golf Vision

At the southernmost extremity of the province are the two towns of Ventura and Santa Barbara. Ventura and Santa Barbara are within 25 miles of each other and share two missions and several fine golf courses.

Being right on the ocean front, the climate here is cool in the summer, is free from frost, and is moderately damp in winter. Architects have taken advantage of the fertile soils and the rolling landscape and have produced something distinctly worth while, as anyone who has played Valley C. C. or La Cumbre will testify. From the greenkeepers' standpoint, the problems of turf culture are not as great as those in Los Angeles, 100 miles to the south. There is not so much play

and the summers are not so warm. Brown patch is not the problem that it is in the south. Bermuda grass, *capriola dactylon*, is present but is not of the horribly corded variety which causes so much grief in warmer parts of the state.

Traveling north 200 miles over an almost golfless area one finds himself still in the coastal mountain region and in a district famous nationally and internationally in the golfing world. Here on the cypress-dotted shores of Monterey bay is located Del Monte, home of the Pebble Beach golf course, site of the 1929 United States Amateur tourney. Here also is a bijou among golf courses, the highly exclusive Cypress Point club. Like many another jewel, only a few people have the privilege of this one, for it is owned and controlled by a comparatively few of the local wealthy residents. According to report there is little chance for the outsider to crash the gate unless he rescues one of the members from dire peril, no matter how much he may wish to send brassie shots screaming down cypress-bordered fairways.

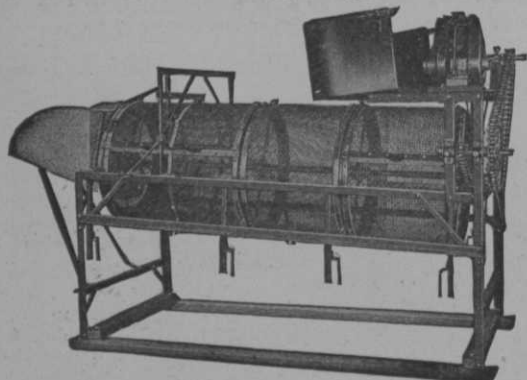
Traps Are Notable

Other courses of note in this district are

the Del Monte and the Monterey Peninsula. Golfing conditions here verge upon the ideal. Light fogs provide moisture for the bracing air which tempers the heat of the sun. Winds from the ocean are present to provide a sportive touch to the best game. A word about the bunkers here would not be amiss. Some of the courses have incorporated the beach into the trapping system with highly successful results. At Cypress Point the traps were constructed by an artist who realized that true artistry is a close approximation to nature. The sand, which is remarkably pure, is brushed right into the grass roots of the fairway so that there is no harsh line of demarcation where the trap ends and the grass begins. The sand, being free from silt, does not pack readily and presents a sufficiently hard problem for the golfer to extricate himself without the necessity of sinking the bunker below the level of the fairway. Taking everything into consideration, there is little left to be desired by the golfer around Monterey Bay, either from an aesthetic or sporting standpoint.

General greenkeeping problems in this district are less intense than they are in Santa Barbara. Brown patch is present

COMPOST-ROTARY SCREENS-SOIL



"Converse Screens Make Par Greens"

Order Direct from Manufacturer or from Leading Jobbers in New York, Chicago, Boston, Detroit, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Richmond, San Antonio, Calgary, Atla., Lansing.

— BULLETIN ON REQUEST —

Manufactured by

F. S. CONVERSE CO., Box B, JOHNSON CITY, N. Y.

The most efficient method of preparing top soils or mixing or screening compost for top dressing.

Model illustrated is driven by small gasoline engine mounted over discharge end.

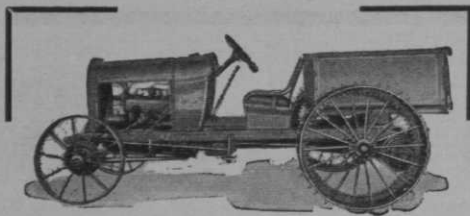
Additional models for tractor or hand power.

One to four grades of material at one operation—

Capacity 2-6 cubic yards per hour—

Mounted on skids for easy transportation—

The Converse Rotary Soil Screen has been adopted by clubs, large and small, throughout the United States.



Staude Mak-a-Tractor

Mows 145,332 Square Yards in
9 Hours

The Staude Mak-a-Tractor purchased last spring was attached to a Model "A" Ford at our local garage and we want you to know that it makes a most complete outfit. Our man mowed a nine course fairway 3303 yards long averaging 44 yards wide with a three unit mower in nine hours. It has done all work on the course, mowing rough with a common mowing machine. It is very satisfactory.

W. E. DENSMORE,
Morrison Lake Resort Association,
Saranac, Mich.

Write for information, guarantee, prices
and easy payment plan of the world's low-
est priced golf course tractor.

E. G. STAUDE MAK-A-TRACTOR CO.
2696 University Ave. St. Paul, Minn.

Grass Seed

of Known Quality

TESTED for PURITY and GERMINATION

South German Bent Colonial Bent
Rhode Island Bent Cocoos Bent
Special Putting Green Bent Formula
Superfine Fairway Formula (With Bent)

Wholesale prices on the above, or any other
Grasses or Mixtures, on application.

Remember:—We are one of the largest direct contractors for foreign-grown Grass Seeds in the United States. Over thirty years of Seed Service have enabled us to segregate those collectors of Bent Seeds who are reliable from those who are not; to single out those growers of Cheving's Fescue whose strains are pure; also to contract for true American-grown seeds of high vitality. All our seeds are botanically true to name and are cleaned and re-cleaned until brought up to the highest possible state of purity and germination, special care being given to the elimination of weed seeds.

Stump & Walter Co.

Specialists in Golf Grass Seeds and Equipment

30-32 Barclay St., New York

in the dollar variety but is kept under control without too great expense or trouble. Bermuda grass as a problem is practically unknown here as are many other weeds. This may be because the greenkeepers have them under better control or because soil and cool climatic conditions are not suited to them. Daisy plants in the fairways may present a diffi-



No. 2 at Flintridge C. C. (Pasadena, Calif.); a view from the new tee. The green is at the end of the fairway curving to the right

culty to be overcome if allowed to grow unchecked.

At the northern end of the California coastal mountain region, 150 miles away from Monterey Bay, is located one of the state's two great metropolitan centers, the bay city of San Francisco. The golfing situation here is somewhat similar to that of Los Angeles, but there are less courses, fewer players, and there is less expenditure involved in outlay and upkeep. It might be said with some degree of accuracy that that which pertains to golf around the Golden Gate is the same without the prevalent extremes as those in and about the Angel City 500 miles to the



The famous seventeenth at Pebble Beach. One of many uses of natural features that have made this course a world wonder.

south. San Francisco has not been blessed, or cursed, with the number of tourists who have come to visit and stayed to reside and play golf as has its sunnier companion. It is more strictly business-like and less the playground. The cool heavy fogs of this seaport are less desirable to the visitors from Iowa than the climate of the southern counties.

Easier Conditions North

This being true, the northern golf courses are not subject to the turf-destroying play every month in the year which makes the southern greenkeepers' lot a hard one. The links therefore are easier to maintain on this account alone without taking into consideration the damper air and more plentiful rains. Too great significance is not attached to the finer bents in this region, inasmuch as blue grass and *poa trivialis* flourish under local climatic conditions so that the courses present a fresh green appearance nearly all the time without tremendous expenditure for water.

Waiving the golf courses of the San Francisco Bay region, it is unfortunate that the clubs of the coastal mountains are so few and far between. If there were more one could take them by groups in describing them and say, "These are good; these are indifferent; and those are not so good." As it is the few courses are almost on a par of perfection and yet each one is distinctly different because of the variety of existing conditions. If one uses superlatives in describing them (the courses) he becomes tiresome, and none will believe him anyway. And yet the visitor to the courses of Monterey and Santa Barbara never fails to be delighted with what he finds.

Small Courses Have Battle

From what has been said it may be

divined by the reader that all the courses of this coast area represent the acme of perfection as far as golf is concerned. Unfortunately, whatever else may be true, this is not the case. There may be 40 or 50 courses in the coastal mountains, but most of them, nearly all in fact, rank so far below those mentioned above that they deserve but passing mention. A number of the small towns in this vicinity have their own golf courses which are completely moistureless from hardpan tee to sand green. Of course the class of people nor the size of the town warrant the expenditure necessary to develop a mediocre nine-hole grass course. Also many of these small towns are situated inland a few miles and are separated from the ocean breezes by a range of mountains which keeps the temperature around 120 degrees in the summer and down to the frost level in winter. Nevertheless, enthusiasm is present on these courses if not the grass. Armed with a driver, a midiron, and a putter, a player can get a wonderful score on one of these courses provided his ball stays out of gopher holes and cracks in the fairways. Because of the condition of the "turf" drives of 300 yards and more are not unusual.

Greenkeeping on such courses is simplicity itself. Occasionally someone drags a mat over the greens to smooth them. In the winter weeds and grass are allowed to grow unchecked more often than not because there is nothing with which to cut them. Superfluous growths are no problem in the summer because there are none on the heat-cracked fairways.

It is to the future that the coastal mountain region can look with pleasant contemplation. Already such districts as that of Santa Maria and Morro Bay are preparing for the golfers who are sure to come.