



Construction view at Tilden Park. Workmen are seeding the 4th green in the background, while others nearer the camera are spreading topsoil for the fairway.

MACHINES SAVED COSTS HERE

TILDEN Park Golf course (Oakland, Calif.) is of championship 18-hole length. It was designed and constructed by William Bell, California's noted golf course architect, and was opened for play last November 11 under ideal weather conditions, to be immediately acclaimed one of the best constructed and ideally located courses in California. This 6,364-yard course is set in rolling wooded terrain. Greens are of generous area, cleverly designed and trapped to conform with a background of wild and rugged hills that protect this restful valley from the wind and fog that surrounds them.

Dick Walpole, one of Bell's assistants in his numerous golf course construction activities on the coast, has, after superintending all the construction work at Tilden

Park, been appointed manager of the layout and will be responsible for the care of the course during its most critical period of development, when constant care is essential if permanent injury to the new greens and fairways is to be avoided.

Indicative of how far golf course construction has advanced in the past few



An idea of how much clearing was needed is given in this view of the practice fairway.



Tractors proved indispensable in grading and shaping both fairways and greens.

years, it is interesting to note that large equipment was used all the way in constructing Tilden golf course. Tractors were used from the day tree clearing began and continued to be used right down to the building of traps and shaping of greens. Horses and fresnos, which once were a

main part in the construction of a golf course, were dispensed with all together.

A few construction facts are of interest. There were more than 30,000 trees, mainly eucalyptus, laurel and live oak, removed from the course areas. 40,000 cu. yds. of dirt was removed. The watering



Tractors are seen here filling ditch before 13th and 18th greens.

system required 16 miles of pipe. Topsoil hauled in for greens and fairways amounted to better than 8,000 yds., while a total of some 30 tons of fertilizers were used. The course is completely watered by means of 850 Buckner pop-up sprinklers.

In the matter of seed, 10,000 lbs. of bluegrass went on the fairways together with 4,000 lbs. of redbtop. The greens were planted with a total of 600 lbs. of Cocos bent.

In spite of the money spent to make the course a success, it is said that the total construction cost was lower than any other course of comparable quality in the Oakland area.

Editorial Praises Operation of New York City Park Courses

THERE is a growing recognition of the valuable work for public health being done by municipal golf departments, according to newspaper items received by GOLFDOM at the close of 1937.

Few appreciate the tremendous handicaps of political pressure, heavy play, public demands, and sharp restricted improvement budgets under which many municipal golf departments must operate. Fortunately for the future of public parks golf, the experienced, able administrators of this work are philosophically resigned to uniformed criticism and have a fraternal bond that enables them to share the pleasure any of their comrades receives for his work.

Municipal course operating officials can readily imagine the satisfaction of John Van Kleek, operating head of the New

York City park courses, in reading the following in the New York Tribune:

"The ten municipal golf courses, which in the season just closed were rolled, seeded and tended until they reached the best standards of playability in their history, had a patronage which showed public appreciation beyond doubt. Under direction of Park Commissioner Moses, bald fairways were patched, better control of starting times and play through the green was established, and golf-house accommodations were improved. That "unattached" golfers were aware of better conditions is shown by the fact that the number of rounds played, up to November 13, reached the remarkable total of 485,100. Clearview—a former club course—in Queens, scored 75,047 rounds, and Dyker Heights in Brooklyn, 70,323. Next in popularity were Mosholu, Pelham, Forest Park, Kissena, Van Cortlandt, Split Rock, Silver Lake and La Tourette.

"The expansion of public links golf, with its enormous contribution to public health and recreation, shows the wisdom of a parks policy which recognizes an obligation to the public and tries to meet it to the full."

Bell, Tillinghast Combine Talents; to Headquarter on Coast

TWO top-flight golf architects, A. W. Tillinghast and William P. Bell, have formed a partnership and will hereafter concentrate their activities on the Pacific Coast.

A. W. (Tilly) Tillinghast has perhaps designed more golf courses than any living man and at least twenty of his layouts have been the scene of national championships, which is an indication of the architectural job he does. For the past few seasons, Tilly was employed by the PGA as golf course consultant, visiting from course to course over the country and advising club pros and their officials on how existing courses could be remodelled for improvement in playing demands and maintenance economy.

William P. Bell earned his reputation mainly on the Pacific Coast where such layouts as Riviera, Ojai, Sunset Fields, Bel-Air and Castlewood have been built under his skilled direction.

Now that the Tillinghast-Bell team has been formed, the Coast is all hepped up over the possibility of a few super-super layouts to attract bigger and better tournaments to the West Coast.