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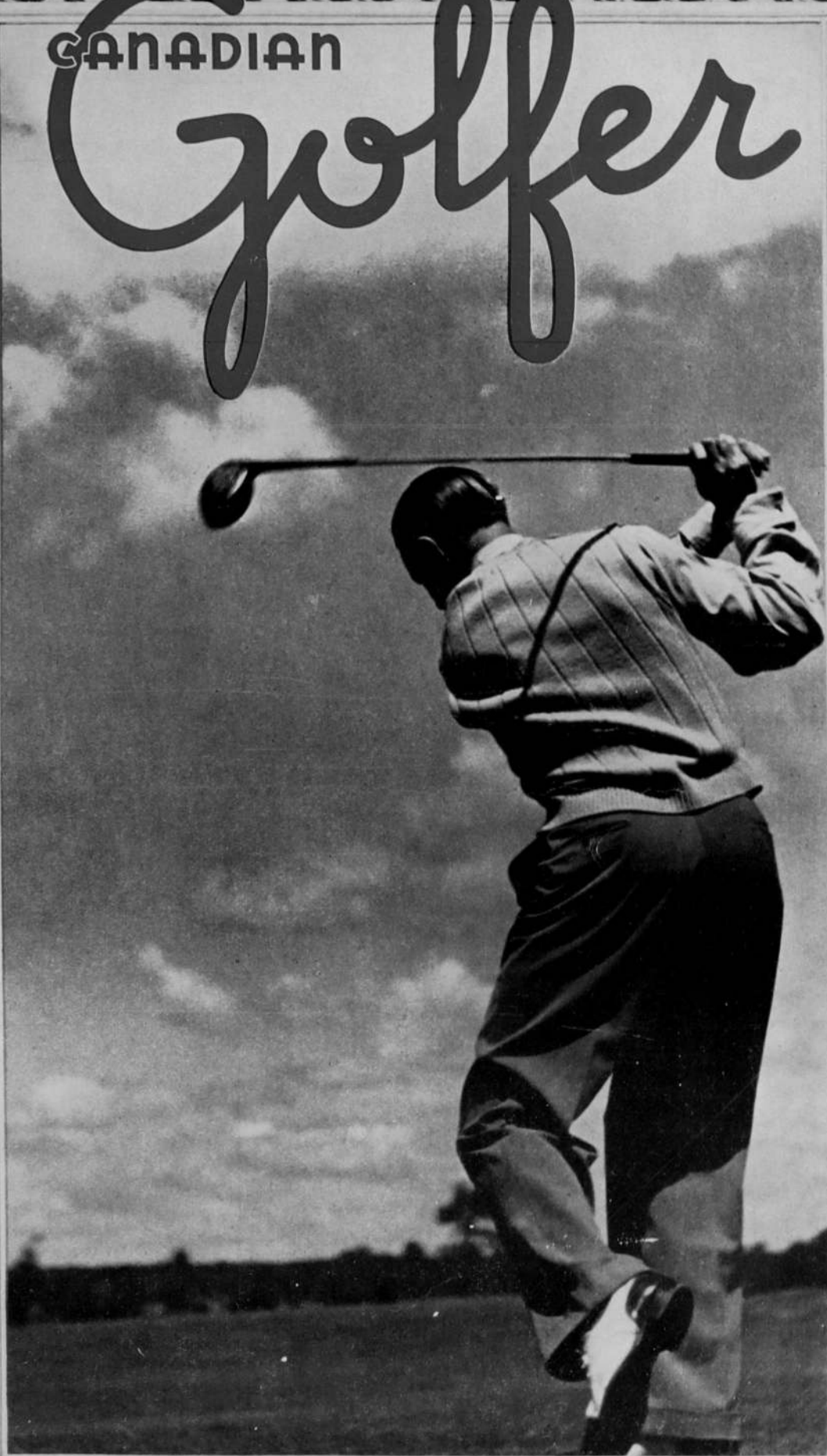
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JANUARY 1940



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# AS WE OBSERVE—

## Nic Thompson's School Tops

Hamilton has one of Canada's finest golf schools in the layout conceived and constructed by Nicol Thompson, veteran professional of the Ancaster Club. Mirrors for watching one's own swing, a pitching court with actual sandtrap, splendid lighting and many new ideas are to be found here. Nic Sr. has had the assistance of Nicol Jr. his well-known professional son in completing the excellent set-up. Golfing visitors to Hamilton and friends of the vast Thompson golfing family should drop in and give this worthwhile layout the once-over.

## Stan Horne Starts Well

It seems difficult to understand why Stanley Horne, Montreal's great little professional ace, is not following up his splendid starts in the current season's "Grapefruit Tour." Stan got off to a field-pacing 68 start at the Miami Open recently and has since looked good in California events at the outset of each tourney—but he's not playing his game at the finishes. Last spring this writer watched Stan pace a great North and South Open field at Pinehurst with a 68 over No. 2 course—which is one of America's most testing. Stan accomplished this after only five practice rounds in the south. Thereafter, however, Horne gradually lost his potent touch and just finished in the money. This writer is certain that Stan's slackening pace is not nerves or lack of them. Our "two cents worth" is that Stan would be better fighting from behind. Either that or more grim determination to fight for every shot to the bitter end. It may be that early success causes him to "ease off" a little—unconsciously. One of these days he'll win an American event nevertheless!

## Sick Snead Second

The real feature of the 1939 professional golf season across the border is the fact that although he was sick and retired for a large portion of the year, Sam Snead placed second in the 1939-40 money winning list. Sam was less than \$600 behind the leader Picard with time out for major teeth operations and three months necessary rest. The \$10,000 Miami Open which was the last tournament of the "fiscal year" for the professionals provided Sam with the chance to catch and pass leaders Nelson, Metz and Guldahl. As a matter of fact Sam's closing 64 in the final round of the tourney

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JANUARY 1940

VOL. XXV NO. 9

## OUR FRONT COVER

The 1940 cover design appearing with this issue comprises a photo of professional Redvers MacKenzie, Elmridge Montreal, by H. R. Pickens Jr. on a photographed background of imported Shepherd's Plaid supplied by St. Pierre and Oliver, Montreal. Art work by Mario Consiglio.

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W. D. TAYLOR

## ANNOUNCEMENT

*Canadian Golfer* wishes to announce with regret the severance of connection between Mr. W. D. "Bill" Taylor and *Canadian Lawn Tennis and Badminton Limited*, publishers of that magazine, after an affiliation extending over nine years. Mr. Taylor joined the advertising department of the magazine, *Golf and Sports Illustrated* in 1931. He became advertising manager the following year and when this publication took over *Canadian Golfer* in 1933 he was appointed General Manager and in charge of advertising.

Mr. Taylor is widely known in many fields of sport, having been a member of

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## FINE PROGRAM AT BELMONT MANOR

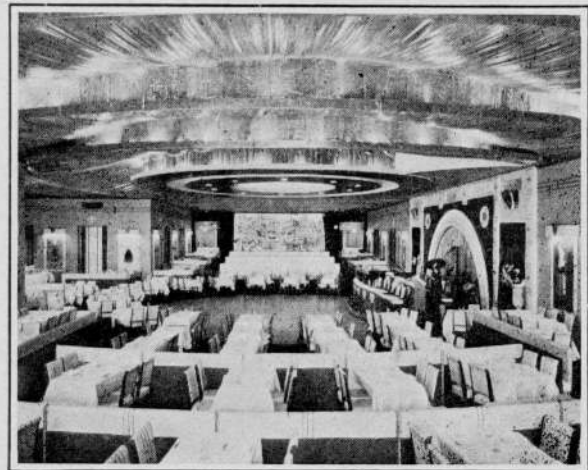
The Belmont Manor in Bermuda has been open since December 21st. Visitors among the Canadian colony who make this spot their winter location send back reports of the magnificent condition of the Belmont Course and the unchanged tranquil life of Bermuda generally. With the S.S. President Roosevelt running regular weekly schedules and the Pan-American Airways Clippers making four trips weekly the season seems off to a fine start.

Recently the famous Belmont Manor golf prizes arrived from England. Never have they been so beautiful or valuable. Among the tourneys the dates of which will be announced shortly are the Annual Hiram-Walker-Gooderham-Worts Team match, Spey-Royal; The Third Annual Belmont Manor Mixed Foursome; Belmont Manor's Ladies Championship; Belmont Manor Men's Championship and the International Men's Tournament for the Canadian Ellis Brothers' Trophy, (team play). With this full schedule ahead plenty of fairway activity of interest to Canadians is assured.



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## PLAYING OUT THE BYE WITH THE EDITOR

By H. R. Pickens Jr.



FRIEND and associate editor, Stu Keate, the Vancouver Province's able and chatty golf commentator, asserts in a recent piece that Byron Nelson, U.S. Open champ, swarthy Tony Penna, chubby John Goodman and U. S. amateur champion Bud Ward—all fairly astute shooters—feel that the sandwedge is outmoding a skill-requiring bunker shot! Stu also states these boys have gone on record as definite "anti-stymists."

Thinking first in terms of the latter we ask why shouldn't they be "anti-stymists"? Nine out of ten kicks voiced agin' this old heartbreaker come from those interested in winning on straight shots—because golf's their business. Those who merely play golf as pleasure or pastime seem to believe that learning to "take" a stymie calls for a sporting character or some such a thing! Professionals are also sporting characters—for the most part, but when dollars and cents become involved another school of ethics

is called into play. Personally we can see why professionals and "shamateurs" might well wish to eliminate the old rule. The pros have every right to; the latter, who depend on golf prowess to further their own ends, are likewise justified in resenting a costly stymie. Only they can't be so frank!

However actual amateurs are nominally in the game for sport, companionship, and a chance to show their breeding and sophistication by smiling in the face of such things as stymies which cost them matches! Learning to accept such setbacks is considered one of the "character-building" phases of the game. Since the loss of a tournament by such an expedient as the occurrence of stymie does not impair the amateur's "three-squares-daily"—then we say, let the stymie alone among amateurs.

This may have a hard-bitten, super-conservative tang to it, but it's our stand!

New York's Metropolitan champion, Frankie Strafacci came to Montreal briefly for the Canadian amateur championship last summer. We say "briefly" because Victoria's Ken Lawson fed him a full course meal of birdies garnished with a 17th-hole stymie to send him home without much "ado" after the second round.

Frankie bowed to a stymie in the end, but he had thrown the fat into the fire long a'fore Ken's ball blocked him at the 17th! That was what finally cut Frank's rally short and it certainly was annoying—to Frankie! When he got home Strafacci bluntly scowled and swore to the press that tournaments in which the old fashioned stymie was to be played were off his list for ever and a day!

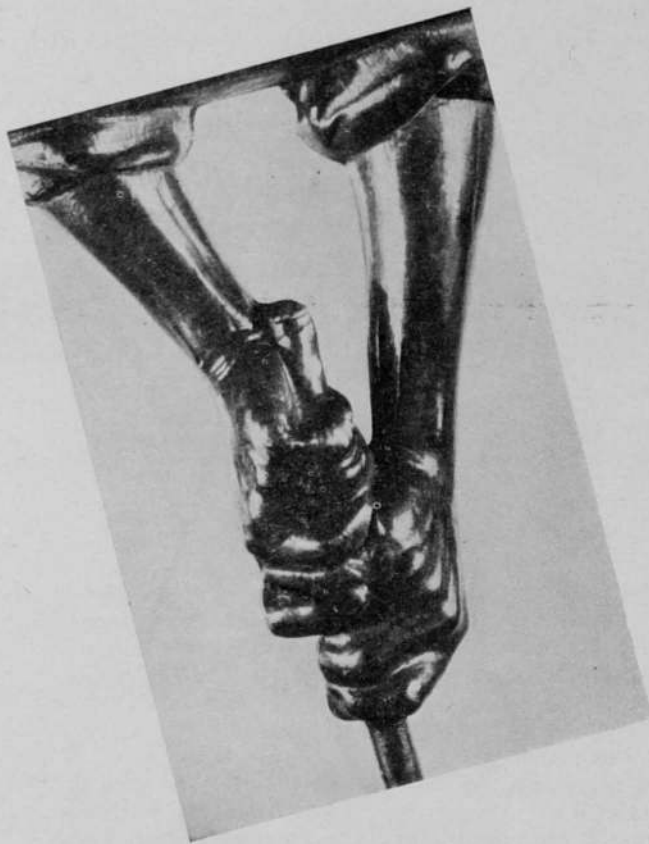
We were sorry when we heard this for the little Italian star seemed further up the ladder than that. The burst carried a prevailing aroma of underdeveloped sporting judgment! Why? Because Frankie had no real kick coming at the stymie. It was the fact that he was four down at the 9th against Lawson which really beat him! However his statement illustrates what we mean about amateurs learning to "take" it—but gracefully!

Nobody ever suggested the stymie as being fair! It never is! But as Charlie Blair McDonald once wrote, "Equity in golf is no more to be expected than in life itself. That is the fatal fascination of both".

As for the sandwedge we've looked over the stocks of most golfing lines and never found one that was at all magical! Its a tough shot from the furrowed sand with any club. So once again the complaints of the "big-wigs" abovementioned apply to conditions among

# WILL THEY LAUGH AT OUR GOLF?

By Bertie Paxton



In the days of John Ball, of which Mr. Paxton writes the famous Vardon or overlapping grip, shown above, was unknown. Ball won many championships with a plain palm grip at which modern golfers smile today. Will the Vardon method of holding clubs transcend the years or also become outmoded?

Is there such a thing as a correct method of playing golf—of holding a club and swinging it? Such a method there certainly is and any good teacher of the game will explain it to you. That is all very true but people said the same thing fifty or sixty years ago and since then nearly everything has been changed. This tempts one to ask whether we have now reached perfection or will the generation to come see any further improvements worth recording.

What would be thought if someone were to predict that our present day top-notch professionals would be laughed at if they came back into the world towards the close of the present century and showed their successors the style of playing golf we are accustomed to see at present. Would the generation yet unborn really laugh at their efforts? It is very likely they would. Players nowadays would laugh if they saw Jimmie Anderson or old Willie Park driving off the tee: so what right have these same players to expect any better treatment from those who might happen to see an action photograph of them in the years to come.

What is there about the present day style of playing golf that would make people think that it is absolutely correct? Lots of people used to think that about the old-fashioned palm grip and John Ball, the great Hoylake player, was one of them. He held his club that way when winning his numerous Championships; but no self-respecting professional would recommend that grip now. In Ball's day—and before it—the young generation thought there was nothing more to learn

about the game: but the remnant of us that have been spared are not quite so sure about that now. What is to hinder some more changes taking place? Will those of us who live for another fifty years—supposing that such a thing is possible—see any further improvement worth recording or has the last word been said?

Nowadays, when people get the chance, they like to watch a really finished player driving off the tee. His style is so correct and effective that it seems wonderful that golfers did not adopt that style of playing long ago. But long ago people thought the same thing when they watched old Willie Park. Yet, according to present day standards, no one could crowd more mistakes into a single drive than he did. His stance was very open: he tee'd the ball back towards his right foot; at the top of his swing the club was over the top of his head or even further out; and, instead of bracing his left side as he swung through the ball, he kept his weight still on his right foot and had to jump an inch or two off the ground in order to retain his balance. It would be hard to find a more unconventional style of driving: but it would be harder still to find a better driver than Willie at his best. He had a style all his own; but he also had a host of young admirers who would have liked fine to steal some of his skill.

Some changes in the popular styles of putting and playing approach shots are often to be seen. Nowadays, you seldom see a player turn square round and face the hole when playing a chip shot. But young Tom Morris stood that way; and these quarter strokes, as they used to be called, were the strong part of his game. He is always pictured playing that shot; and his skill with this iron, more than anything else perhaps, enabled him to win his four Championships.

Suppose that Tom came back into the world and visited some of our modern greens, it is very probable that he would take his lofting iron with him and find his way to the practise ground. Of course none of our present day players ever saw him in the flesh so it is unlikely that anyone would recognize him. Still, he would attract attention. His round flat Scotch bonnet would ensure that even if his style escaped notice. What, then, would be more likely to happen than that some kind-hearted duffer would get into conversation with him and give him a little friendly advice—show him the correct way to stand, for instance, and, in fact, explain to him the rudiments of the game. Tom, it should be remarked, was just the man to appreciate that kind of thing; but none of us who used to watch his self-confident air as he followed his ball through the green would care to be the man who tendered him any advice.

Without doubt, golf as it is played now is a great improvement on the golf we had to be contented with in the days gone by. Over and above the improvement in clubs and greens, the standards of style and play have all changed. You never see some of the weird swings that used to be so common. The reason for that, no doubt, is that, nowadays, professionals are paid to teach the game. They never used to be. In the good old days if someone had suggested to a boy's fond parent that the said youth should get some golf lessons from a professional, the answer would likely have been, "What does the brat want with a lesson? Who has been putting nonsense like that into his head? He'll be wanting to see his name in the newspapers next!"

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# BILL THOMPSON —

## A PROFESSIONAL FIND

Bill Thompson, Montreal's young professional hopeful shows the form which has made him Quebec's fastest developing player in the past two years. His style and improvement are another evidence of the reward from correct swinging for those aspiring to really master the game.

Top men in the golf field, professionally that is, are not everyday finds. Young men who seem destined for such places are just as scarce as "ivory" in any other field of sport. That is why CANADIAN GOLFER became enthusiastic over the appearance, personality and general ideas about golf belonging to a young Montrealer who in the past two years has shown the prime requisites of a potential top-flight golf professional.

The young man in question is 27-year-old Bill Thompson, clean cut and goodlooking and with a game which has improved so remarkably in the past two years that it is hard to recognize him as the same player.

Briefly this quiet but confident young fellow's history runs something like the following. First saw golf at the Maisonneuve Municipal course in Montreal where he was born. Caddied there under professional Arthur Monday who in telling the caddies how to carry out their part of the game awakened Bill's enthusiasm. Eleven years ago, at the age of 16, Bill was playing a round at Hampstead. Behind were Bob Burns, then the club professional and a member, George Malcolm.

So impressed were the two behind that when he got in Burns inquired about the young fellow and eventually asked him if he would accept the assistant professional job under him the next year. However plans went askew and Lionel Ross, an experienced professional out from England got the job. However Thompson was given a job in the club. There, watching the classical Burns in action, he built up a very smooth action in his own swing.

Wishing to get into the professional field the following year Thompson took the assistant job under George Houle at the Municipal course. The following season he succeeded to the Bellevue Golf Club post outside Montreal after the departure of Olin Brault, professional father of the present Quebec amateur champion, Gus Brault of Cowansville.

Although he was a member of the Montreal P.G.A. in 1932, it was not until 1938 that the young professional was able to spend enough time away from his club to compete in Association tournaments. At the end of the season Bill, after finishing fourth and fifth, in several of the tournaments played around his home course in 72 to lead the M.P.G.A. meeting.

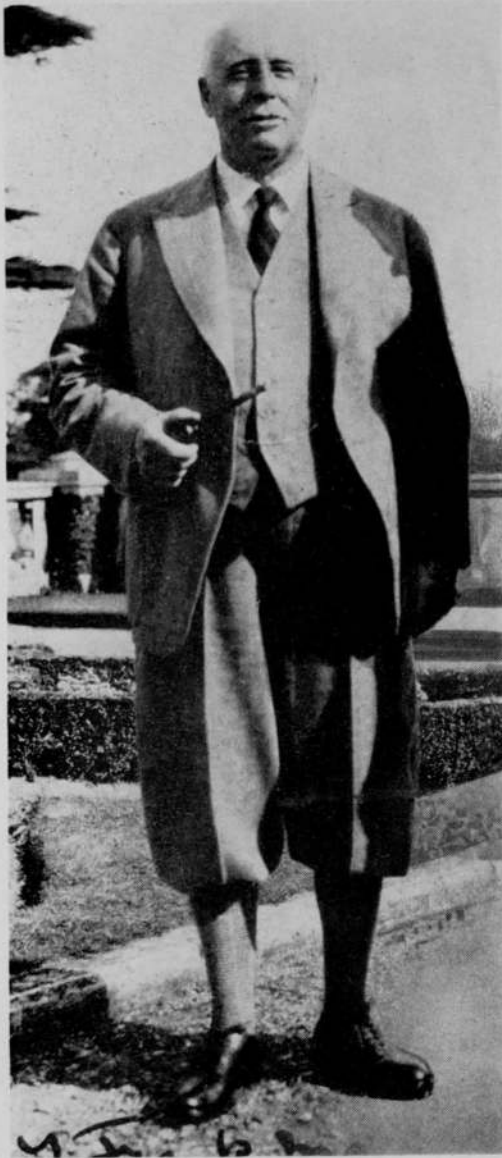
That was the starting point. Bill had outplayed his first model, Bobby Burns, then the ace golfer in the Montreal district. The win gave the youngster confidence and although he finished only 7th in the Association seasonal standing those who had seen him realized his potential game after this demonstration.

In 1939 Bill took the Hampstead P.G.A. meet topping the field by four strokes. The "then-Canadian" champion, Stanley Horne, was runner up! More encouragement! After that Bill began knocking at the door of the Association tourneys and took runner-up honours at Elmridge and Rosemere. All told in 12 Association meets this year, Thompson placed in the money eight times which is quite a neat record for the young golfer.

Last fall Thompson walked through a field of doughty veterans to meet Stanley Horne in the final of the Montreal P.G.A. championship. Horne eventually won 6 and 5, but he

*Turn to page 14 please.*





MR. T. FRANK  
MATTHEWS,  
TORONTO

## SENIOR PERSONALITY

OF THE MONTH

ANOTHER IN THE SERIES OF TRIBUTE  
ARTICLES TO OUTSTANDING GOLFERS  
OF THE SENIOR CLASS

*By Ralph H. Reville*

At the Annual Meeting last September of The Canadian Seniors' Golf Association, Mr. T. Frank Matthews of Toronto, was elected a Governor of the Association and the honour was a well deserved one. Mr. Matthews comes of an outstanding family of industrialists, capitalists, golfers, curlers and cricketers. His brother, The Hon. Mr. Albert Matthews, Lieut-Governor of Ontario, is a prominent member of The Lambton Golf & Country Club, Toronto, and also takes a keen personal interest in the Windermere Golf & Country Club one of the best known and most popular links in the Muskoka District. Another brother, the late Mr. W. E. Matthews, well known Ottawa capitalist, was a member of the Royal Ottawa Golf Club and a former President of The Royal Canadian Golf

Association (1925). Still another brother, the Hon. Mr. R. C. Matthews, of Toronto, ex-M.P. a former Minister in the Bennett Government, was for many years a very active member of the Rosedale Golf Club, Toronto, of which he was a former President. Latterly however, he has more or less devoted his spare time to the advancement of the grand old game of cricket. He is mainly responsible for the great revival of this outstanding sport not only in the Toronto District but throughout Canada, he having largely financed the Canadian team of cricketers, who of recent years, made such a successful tour of the United Kingdom. Still another brother, the late Mr. G. S. Matthews, was a valued member of the Brantford Golf & Country Club.

Mr. Frank Matthews himself, has been a keen devotee of golf and curling for many years past. He was born in the town of Lindsay, Ont., July 1869, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Matthews. Lindsay, by the way, has provided more than its fair share of men who have made a name for themselves in the financial and business life of the Dominion. He was associated with his father at Peterboro in 1889-94. Was Secretary at George Matthews-Blackwell Ltd. 1894-11. Secretary, Matthews-Blackwell Ltd. 1911-19. President and Managing-Director, Canadian Packing Co. Ltd., 1919-27. Removing to Toronto, he retained his activities in the Packing industry and is President of the Canadian Packing Co. Ltd. and Vice President of Canada Packers Ltd. one of the largest (if not the largest) industries of its kind in the British Empire. His clubs are the National, Toronto, the Granite, Toronto, Lambton Golf & Country Club and the Peterboro Golf & Country Club.

Like so many other Lindsayites, Mr. Matthews from his youth up, has been keenly interested in curling, golf and other sports. He started to play the Royal & Ancient game in Peterboro, in 1890 and was President of the Peterboro Golf & Country Club 1905-1908—a particularly virile organization. Moving to Toronto in 1919 he changed over from non-resident to resident member of the Lambton Golf & Country Club Limited. He was a Governor of the Club 1925-1930 inclusive and was President—and a right good President too—for three years, 1931-1932-1933. He joined the Canadian Seniors in 1923 in which prominent Association ever since he has taken a very active and prominent part. He was a member of the International Team of the Seniors in 1927, 1929, 1931, 1932 and 1933 and always gave a good account of himself in the Annual Matches. In 1929, after playing in the International Matches at historic St. Andrews, Scotland, he participated in a game with the American Seniors' team at Sunningdale, England, on which occasion, the late George S. Lyon, won the prize for low gross and Mr. Matthews, the prize for low nett—a very notable achievement upon the part of the two Canadians as the Americans always field a very strong team and generally take the measure of their Canadian opponents. These two prizes were donated by the British.

The Canadian Seniors' Golf Association has a very strong Board of Governors, comprising some of the outstanding men of the Dominion. The Association will be still further strengthened by the recent addition of Mr. Frank Matthews to the Board, alike from an Executive and golfing standpoint. That this popular and prominent Torontonion, who takes such a keen interest in the social, club and philanthropic life of the city of his adoption, may be spared many years more, to continue his golfing and varied other activities, is the earnest wish of hosts of friends not only in Toronto and vicinity but throughout Ontario, in which sentiment the Canadian Golfer, begs leave to be associated.



# CAN YOU READ TEE GROUNDS?

By H. R. Pickens Jr.

Things look different depending upon where you are standing. That is an old axiom which can be applied in many instances, but none more appropriately than to the perspective which the golfer gives himself when he chooses his spot on a tee ground.

In fact it may be truthfully said that every tee ground presents a right and a wrong spot from which the player may start his efforts at solving the hole's par. While the rules limit one to two club lengths behind the markers, the scope for changing the panorama of the hole is surprisingly vast merely by moving from side to side between the markers.

Just how much difference this can spell to one's score on single holes, and consequently the entire round, is hard to estimate, but carelessness in this respect has, at times, been most obvious.

Perhaps the most recent important example of error in this regard occurred in 1938 when Harry Cooper was defending his Canadian Open Championship title at the Mississauga Golf Club in Toronto. The "Lighthouse" came to the final hole of the last round needing only a mediocre bogey five to win by a cool, three strokes.

On the right, there was some danger of driving down a sloping rough, but this would not have been a serious error. As a matter of fact many players had been deliberately shooting that direction all week simply to avoid a greater danger on the left. A slight hook on this hole meant flirtation with a treacherous boundary.

Moreover the white tee-markers were placed in such a way that if you teed up close to the left the impression of the required shot beckoned out to the comparative safety of the right-hand rough. In short by teeing up on the left a "push" was visually suggested.

Had Cooper thought of this he would have doubtless retained his title, but instead he placed his ball close to the right-hand tee-marker.

From this angle the fairway appeared to stretch out to the left. A straight ball this way was perfect, of course, but Harry had been tending to hook all through the last day of play. Unmindful of these considerations, and with 2000 excited galleries crowding along the right, Cooper chose the right side of the tee from which to play his last drive. What disaster fol-



lowed! A slight hook on a beautiful long ball carried the shot barely out-of-bounds and there went Harry's hard-earned lead over the field. In one tragic moment he had lost the advantage which it had taken him 71 gruelling holes to gain. Flustered by this error and playing three from the tee, Cooper finished with a miserable eight and that was enough to allow Sam Snead to overtake him! Cooper finally lost after a 27 hole playoff the following Monday!

The point is that even the greatest golfers sometimes make "teeing errors". Sometimes such mistakes are not costly, but most holes "open up" from one side of the tee grounds while the other side al-

## 14th AT SUMMERLEA

Photographed model showing roughly the layout of the 14th hole at Summerlea Golf Club, Montreal. Here the positioning of the left-hand trap and the extension of trees on the right make the tee-shot a ticklish one. Moreover, the ball seen lying in the fairway shows the ideal approaching spot and at the same time brings out the care with which one's drive must be placed so as to open up this green. In the 1935 Canadian Open Championship this hole, just over 410 yards, was played in an average of 4.5 shot by the experts in 270 rounds of golf. Most of even the star performers read the tee grounds incorrectly playing close to the left instead of to the right from which position the ideal faded drive, required here, would have left them in fine approaching position.

most always seems to "narrow down" the fairway to the ideal approaching spot. In many instances the difference rests only in one's perspective, but being human, the

Turn to page 14

# LEARN TO ENJOY GOLF

By Hal  
(Vancouver)



Recognized as the greatest master of the iron shot, Tommy Armour here demonstrates a Number 4 iron shot for the readers of Canadian Golfer.



Armour, as will be noted, has a very restricted body action, even for this full iron shot. The clubhead is started back, not by the wrists



but by a movement rearward caused by a "wee lift of the left heel". At the top of the swing, the left heel is barely off the ground and comes

In my last article I explained the necessity of getting the right mental attitude towards learning golf, and in this article I hope to clear up a little of the mystery surrounding the golf swing and to show that practically everyone can learn to play the game well enough to get some real enjoyment out of it. I would like to stress a point here which is sometimes overlooked;— the pleasure you give to those with whom you play. This should be as important as your own enjoyment of the game. It can best be attained by learning to understand the golf swing, to have good style and to look as if you knew how to hit a ball.

It must be recognized first, that all those who take up golf, no matter how good the instructor is, or how much practise they put in, will not reach the same standard of efficiency, any more than all those who take up the piano or violin, etc.

But in the latter case as most people can learn to play well enough to enjoy these instruments, so with the golfer all may not be champions but should expect to do well enough to thoroughly enjoy the game, and play it intelligently.

Now perhaps the first thing to get clear on, is the long accepted theory that there are so many different ways of playing golf; making it difficult to decide which is right and what is the best style for your particular build and general physical and mental make-up. If you will inspect any three varying low-handicap golfers you will see that despite many other differences they all arrive at a point just before contact with the club in exactly the same position fundamentally, although there may be slight differences in style.

Now let's observe the essential features of this position; you will notice they all have straight left legs, straight left arms, right arms well back and still bent, relaxed right knees and delayed wrist action. These outstanding features may be observed in the swings of practically every expert golfer. Apparently then it must be important to approximate this position if you expect to hit your ball well. It is also quite obvious that these players must have used approximately the same primary movement before this position was arrived at. Remember, the position described is the result of the movement used from the start of the down swing. Going back a little further you



back to the ground immediately upon the start of the down-swing of the shot.



Armour has a distinct swing. Note the co

would have observed that most top players arrive at approximately the same position at the top of the back swing. In fact practically all good golfers arrive in the same relative position. The swings of course may be a little shorter or longer; that is, however, a matter of individual style.

There must be some definite reason for these similar features, so first let us consider what the underlying principle of the golf swing is. In other words, what is an average golf swing made of?

I think most experts will agree that a sound golf swing is based on the principle of centrifugal force, and if this is the case we must then decide where the centre of the circle is. It is quite obvious that the left shoulder is the point of the body on which the swing hangs, although the center of the whole operation is the spine, around which the swing revolves.

For all practical purposes, however, let us accept the left shoulder as the point that we are going to swing the club from.

It is necessary then, to decide what we are going to swing it with, or in other words where is our main source of power to come from.

# F BY CORRECT SWINGING

Hal Rhodes  
(Over Professional)

You see up to this point our reasoning is perfectly clear and it is obvious no one should attempt to hit a ball before these questions are satisfactorily answered.

The study of the main source of power is a very important one, as your whole game depends largely on your impulse to hit the ball, and it is necessary to direct this impulse to where you have decided your main source of power is to come from, and this is not usually the natural thing to do.

Obviously the accompanying Armour pictures show the source of power to have been developed from the muscles of the back, through an unwinding movement of the body. The position of the left arm still well back against the chest shows that the hands and arms have not started the downward swing. It is also shown quite clearly that whatever wrist and hand action there is should be left until the last.

Our next problem then, is to decide on the best way to get the club into the position where your main source of power can be applied most effectively.

This is probably where experts differ, but I feel it is largely a question of how each individual reacts to certain thoughts. As we are working on the principle that the body movement always keeps ahead of the arms and hands on the downward swing, it seems only reasonable to start the back swing in the same way. By this method you maintain the same sequence of moves both going back and coming down; i.e. body, arms, and wrists. I do not claim that this is the only way to get the club into the correct position, nor is it perhaps the most natural at first, but I do believe it will, in the end, produce the most uniform results.

It is interesting to note that Vardon, Braid, and Taylor started the club back in the same way that Bobby Jones does. Tommy Armour starts with a "wee lift of the left heel" and the clubhead definitely lags behind in the same way as the players just mentioned. But why should this be? You should always know why. If the body movement is first and the wrists not held rigid the weight of the club will cause a little lag of the clubhead. In starting the work with the hands and wrists there is always danger of tension being produced all over the body and you get away from the underlying principle of swing, with the left shoulder as the center of the circle.

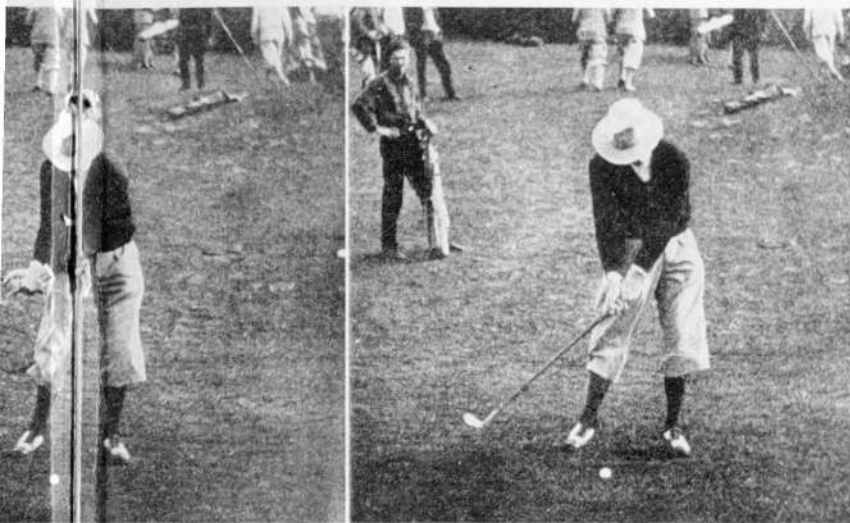
Now by revolving the shoulders with the head steady, the club will be swung in a natural arc into a good hitting position.

The downward swing is a combined lateral hip shift to the left and an unwinding movement of the body. This produces the wrist action with no conscious effort on their part, and is one of the most important things to be clear on if this method is to be adopted. The wrist action should be delayed as long as possible and produced by a proper timing of the shoulder movement, the wrists acting as well oiled hinges.

Study carefully this line of reasoning and start to get the action described, with a No. 6 or 7 iron. You will have a definite plan based on a sound fundamental principle and your improvement should be steady.

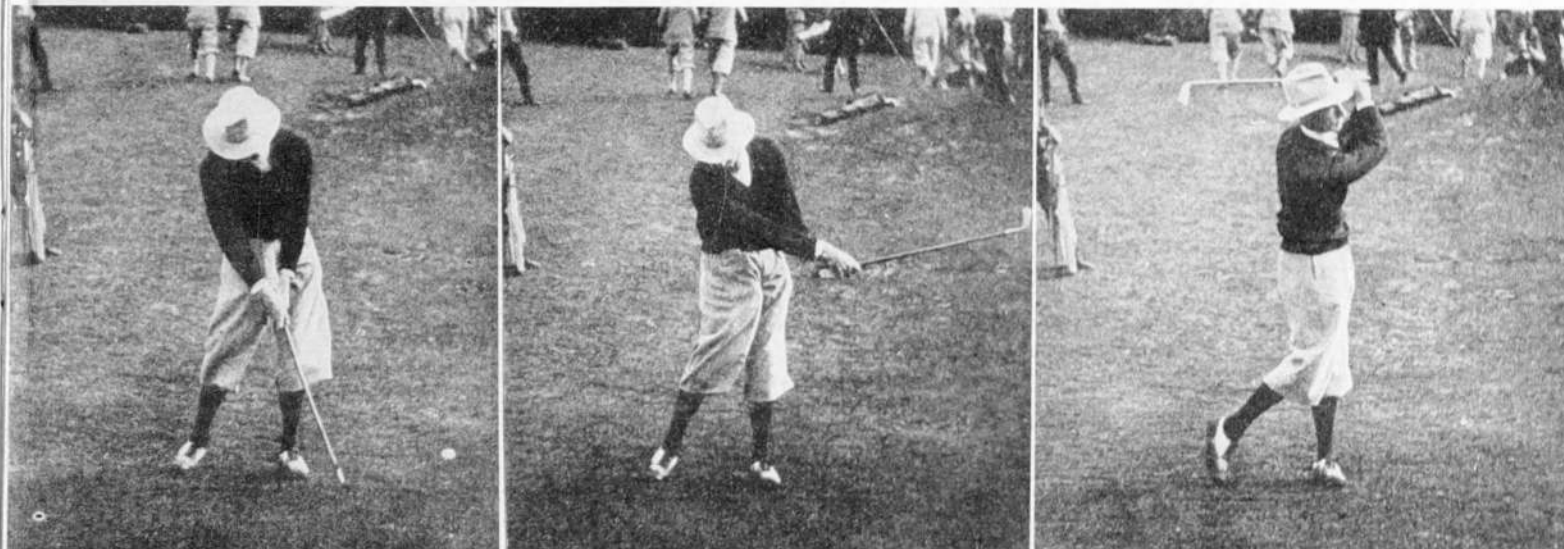
There are of course, many details of the golf swing that should be learned, but these will gradually come as you get

Turn to page 14 please.



distinctly because at the top of his backswing he does not cock the wrists. Armour

does not maintain this cock as long as do many other leading players. In other words, he hits sooner with the hands.



It will be seen also that Armour's body moves forward with the down-swing so that he is dragging at the ball at impact. This accounts some-

what, we believe, for his control of direction and for the crispness of his hit downward and through the ball.

Finally, note the action of Armour's hands in the eighth photograph, and his perfect relaxation at the finish.

## Canada's Sports Program

### CONTINUES DESPITE WAR

It is the Dominion Government's expressed wish that civilian activity should follow normal lines as closely as possible, and sports' leaders have fallen in with that idea. There is no need in Canada, either, for such a ban as that placed on big sports gatherings in England, where air raids are feared.

Despite the war, preliminary plans have been laid to hold the British Empire Games at Montreal in 1942.

Canada's sports program has gone ahead almost undisturbed by the war, though scores of athletes have enlisted with the fighting forces and others are awaiting the call to colors.

Canadian rugby football play-downs were staged before thousands, while the National Hockey League and the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association have swung into successful seasons. Most sports organizations have expressed the desire to provide relaxation in time of mental strain.

Whether the same condition will apply in another year is a different matter. For the moment, only a part of the country's athletes have been needed in the war effort.

Sports leaders have been quick to enter training for the time when they will be called up and organizations like the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada and the Sports Service League have devoted time and money to aiding sports among the soldiers. The C.A.H.A. has set aside \$5,000 to foster military sports and some military units have entered teams in the C.A.H.A.

C. Ross (Sandy) Somerville, six times Canadian amateur golf champion and once United States amateur champion, was among the first to join up, and is a lieutenant with the Canadian Active Service Force in England. Robert (Scotty) Rankine, the country's foremost distance runner, joined the Perth Regiment (Machine Gun) at Stratford, Ont.



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## W. DUTTON COPP RESIGNS

The Canadian Lawn Tennis and Badminton Co. Ltd., publishers of *Canadian Golfer* announces with regret the receipt of resignation from the company directorate of Mr. W. Dutton Copp, Toronto, due to stress of other business activities. Mr. Copp is a member of the Royal York Golf Club and the Granite Club and was president of the Canadian Lawn Tennis and Badminton Co. Ltd. from 1932 until 1939. He served as Vice-president in 1939. Mr. Copp leaves the active board expressing "all best wishes to those carrying on the valiant and vitally important work of sport promotion in Canada through the medium of *Canadian Golfer* and *Canadian Lawn Tennis and Badminton* magazines."

## OTTAWA SUFFERS LOSSES

### Passing of E. A. Corrigan

The early winter has seen death take toll of two stalwart and outstanding golfing figures in Ottawa. Mr. E. A. Corrigan succumbed after a short illness at the age of 59. Father of the former Quebec amateur champion, Frank Corrigan, and founder of the popular Chaudiere Golf Club in Ottawa Mr. Corrigan was a champion in his own right having taken the 1931 Rivermead club title. Later he and Frank won the Quebec Father and Son title. Mr. Corrigan was outstanding in the pioneering of the Insurance business in Ottawa and in early life was a mathematics professor. Mr. Corrigan was an ardent fisherman, curler, hunter and all-round sportsman. Golf was his deepest affinity in this field and it was because of this that he began the Chaudiere Club, of which he was Vice-president for many years. Mr. Corrigan is survived by three sons, Frank, Stan and James, now in the R.C.A., three daughters, Rita, Rosemary and Ruth Corrigan, also three brothers, James, Daniel and Michael and a sister Mrs. John Kelly, all of Mount Forest, Ontario. Mr. Corrigan was born in Mount Forest in 1881 coming to the Capital in 1905. In the past 35 years his friends and business affiliations in that city became legion. His passing takes an outstanding sportsman and golfer from the field.

### Ken Findlay's Untimely End

The second heavy loss to the Eastern Canadian golfing picture occurred in the tragic death of Ken Findlay, 1939 Ottawa City and District champion. Ken, 28-years, newly married to the popular Montrealer, formerly Miss Betty Stuart, accidentally shot himself December 29th. Findlay, a McGill graduate, was a quiet and extremely well-liked figure in the golfing fraternity in which he was becoming an increasingly adept member. His victory last fall over Frank Corrigan of Ottawa in a thrilling playoff for the Ottawa City title was his first major win, but three years back while living in Montreal Findlay gave evidence for a definitely improving game. Findlay came from a fine Carleton Place family all of whom were interested in golf. Jock Findlay, one of four surviving brothers, was an outstanding golfer for McGill several years ago. He is now in the R.C.A. at London. Beside his wife, and mother, Mrs. David Findlay, Ken is survived by brothers David K., D. Hamilton, George E. and Jock also three sisters Mrs. W. Phillips, Carleton Place, Mrs. D. McCall and Miss Helen Findlay both of Toronto.

*Letter from an*  
OCTOGENARIAN GOLFER



Beloved veteran John E. Hall, Mississauga Club historian who at 80 is Toronto's most ardent golfer. He writes to us concerning our premium golf glove which is given with subscription.

Canada being a sportminded nation it is not surprising that as our sportsmen gather years we should develop what people call "Grand old men of sport." Of this number is golfer and sport lover John E. Hall, Mississauga Golf Club's Archivist—the man who has made for his club the finest set of records and history possessed by any in Canada. Mr. Hall has done this work because he loved the Club and the game. As he has already passed the 80 mark in years his interest and keenness is scarcely short of magnificent. Below appears a letter recently received from our friend Mr. Hall.

January 15th 1940

The Canadian Golfer  
Montreal

Dear Sirs:

Thanks for your letter of the 11th.

I am leaving for the South on February 5th so keep the golf glove (which I wrote about earlier) until my return as I am not going to take my clubs with me.

Too bad about poor Audrey Millar (Note: Miss Millar is a promising young golfer of the Mississauga Club and possibly Toronto's top free style fancy skater) breaking her leg while skating.

She is in the Toronto General hospital Room 518 Private pavillion. Her visitor have all autographed their names on the cast so I have to go in and do likewise.

She will have many a laugh when she looks at it later on.

Mr. Riggs, (Note: Mr. F. L. Riggs is Mississauga's energetic and efficient club secretary) is coming in to see me this morning to have me autograph the likeness of myself which will be "hung" or "hanged" at the club. I'll be hanged at the present moment which word is more correct!

We are going to St. Petersburg and returning some time in April. With best wishes to you and your magazine for 1940.

Sincerely

John E. Hall.

P.S.—When you see Ralph Reville tell him that I am still alive, but not kicking.

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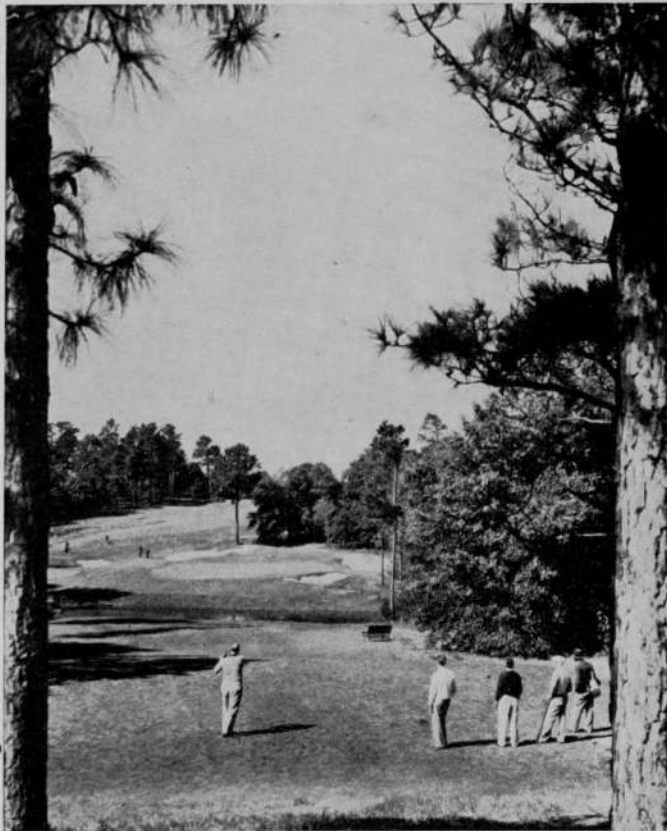
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## LONDON'S PUBLIC

### COURSE A SUCCESS

One of the cries which has arisen from time to time has been against the rather inept condition of public golf links across Canada. Sharp contrast is pointed out between facilities which the Canadian working man has at his disposal for play and those found close at hand in many parts of the United States and Great Britain. For instance golf at 50 cents a round on week days may be had at the beautiful Parkway courses in and around New York. Nobody supposes that Canadian cities can support such facilities in great numbers or at quite as low a price, but generally our Municipal courses are woefully unimpressive as compared with the fine standards of private clubs across this country.

However, we reprint a most encouraging item which appeared in the Ottawa Citizen also in the London Free Press. This article has to do with the splendid record and achievement at the London Municipal course, Thames Valley. As inspiration to those interested in municipal golf club promotion this clipping speaks for itself. Those in charge of Thames Valley would undoubtedly be happy to explain more fully their business methods to anyone wishing to communicate with that club. Herewith the clipping:

"The Public Utilities Commission has made the last payment on the Thames Valley Golf course. This municipal enterprise has a remarkable record. It has started 13 years ago and has not cost the ratepayers a cent. All costs of the land, the laying out of the courses, the clubhouse and the many incidental expenses have been paid by fees.

The Thames Valley course, which today consists of 27 holes, is one of the finest, if not the finest, municipal course in Canada and certainly one of the most beautiful. It has brought golf within the means of all. Hundreds of Londoners, who could not otherwise afford the expense of golf, have had an opportunity to play Scotland's national game. Many players have graduated from the Thames Valley course to the private clubs. It has, likewise, developed some of London's finest golfers.

The municipal club is an asset to London and the Public Utilities Commission is to be congratulated on its success. It was with considerable doubt that it initiated the enterprise 13 years ago, and it was feared it might become a civic white elephant."

# LOTUS BLOSSOM GRAND SLAMMER

By Robert E. Harlow

When Bobby Jones made a Grand Slam, the competent critics said it would never be repeated and it is entirely possible that this is the truth as far as the British and United States open and amateur championships are concerned.

But Japan had a Grand Slam King for 1939 in Torchy Toda, of Kobe, who played in a number of exhibitions and events in America several years ago. Toda, the artist of Japanese golf, during 1939, won the four major championships of Japan; the Japanese open, the Western Japanese open, the Japanese professional and the Western professional.

In the open, played in June over Toda's home course in Kobe, the Japanese star won with 73-71-70-73—287. He had a five stroke margin over Chin, who was in America with Toda in 1936. Tommy Miyamoto, who was in United States in the spring of 1935, finished third with 297. The course measured 6,773 yards with a difficult par of 72.

In the Western Japanese open, a 36 hole event, held in October, Toda won with 69-68—137. The course is 6,620 yards and the par 70. He was eight strokes in front of the second man.

Toda won the Japanese professional championship at match play defeating Miyamoto in the final 3 and 2. He won the Western pro championship at match play, when again in the final he defeated Miyamoto 5 and 4.

It appears that war with China had little effect on the Japanese golf championships, all of which were held with the familiar pros in the top spots.

Toda greatly impressed critics when he came to America for the first time in the spring of 1935 with a six man Japanese team. In the first match the Japanese team played in Portland, Ore., against six Northwest professionals, Toda and Chin, with a better ball of 67 beat the two Zimmerman brothers, 2 and 1. To say that Portland golfers were surprised would be putting it mildly. The Japanese won all three bestball matches.

This team toured the United States by train from Portland to Los Angeles, to Kansas City to St. Louis and from St. Louis east, via bus. It was a rocky voyage part of the way, but the Japanese players and their manager enjoyed it. They played 42 matches, winning 25, losing 12 and tying four. The opposition was P.G.A. sectional teams.

In a final match at Skokie in Chicago, the Japanese won three matches from Chicago's leading amateurs. Chick Evans, Bob Gardner and Russ Martin were on the Chicago side.

Nakamura, the Japanese open champion of 1934 holds the distinction of being the first Japanese professional to win prize money in America. He finished in the money in the Western Open at South Bend in 1935.

Best showing ever made by a Japanese in America was by Toda, who finished in a tie for second in the Hollywood, Florida, open in the spring of 1936 in a field in which practically every class American professional was entered. Toda



TORCHY TODA.  
Japan's "Bobby Jones"

was 277, one stroke behind Ghezzi, the winner. Tony Penna tied with Toda for second.

In a match at Atlanta, Georgia, Toda and Chin played Bobby Jones and Charley Yates, even, in 18 holes of bestball play at East Lake.

Toda is a great artist and is evidently being kept away from the war in China. This writer would go a long distance to see Toda play golf under competitive circumstances, to note what improvement he has made since he was last in America in 1936. He looked then to have the possibilities of becoming one of the game's greatest.

*Ed. Note:* The Japs visited Canada during their stay on this continent. They played at the General Brock Open championship and also in team matches in which they placed third behind United States and Canadian stars. ○

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## Lieutenant C. Ross Somerville, TEES OFF AGAINST ADOLPH



C. R. Somerville, London, Ont.

Canada's Sandy Somerville was last in England in 1938 when he went to the semi-finals of the British Amateur championship. Lieutenant C. R. Somerville of London, Ont. is again in the Old Country at the present time doing his bit with the First Canadian Active Service Corps. In a recent letter from London's star player and Sandy's golfing pal, Jack Nash, we were informed that nothing has been heard from the "Silent Scot" except a wire at Christmas to his family reading, "EVERYTHING PEACHY".

Incidentally two other well-known London golfers are in the service at present. They are Charlie Keene and Colin Brown, both stationed in Halifax as sub-Lieutenants. Doug Wigle, another outstanding London athlete who was recently married (to Miss Sis Holten) has been in the R.C.A.F. for three years. ○

### U. S. AMATEURS RE-DEFINED

The Definition of an Amateur Golfer has been changed by uniformly fixing the 18th birthday as the time limit for excusing prior violations of the Definitions.

Heretofore, the 16th birthday was the time limit for certain violations and the 18th birthday for other violations.

However, anyone of any age who violates the Amateur Definition is ineligible for amateur competition unless:

1. Prior to his 18th birthday he ceases such violations and so declares himself, whereupon he automatically becomes an amateur golfer; or

2. After his 18th birthday, he is formally reinstated to amateur standing by the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association.

The Supplement to the Definition of an Amateur Golfer has been changed to the effect that one who becomes automatically reinstated to amateur standing prior to his 18th birthday, as provided in 1. above, may not again be reinstated as provided in either 1. or 2. above; a player may not be reinstated more than once. In short, a player may not change from professional to amateur status more than once, no matter what his age may be.

### PLAYING OUT THE BYE

Continued from page 3

their own limited number and to their "closed-corporation" tournaments.

John Q. Public is'nt interested or concerned with the fact that a bunch of 70-shooters are finding the game too easy! John finds it difficult enough to get the ball into the hole with all the modern gadgets. Hence speaking for golf generally we say, "Go ahead and take the sandwedge out of Open championship play if you wish!" If duffers have sandwedges which make anything easier for them, you'll never get 'em out of their bags. As a matter of fact one more morcel of such legislation won't change the scores of 99% of all golfdom even a small fraction anyway!

### ENJOY GOLF

Continued from page 9

the fundamentals clearly fixed in your mind and can execute these movements with a reasonable degree of confidence. Remember there is always more to learn, a greater degree of accuracy in timing etc. and the real pleasure of the game comes when you begin to hit your ball with the confidence born of a genuine knowledge of the swing.

### BILL THOMPSON

Continued from page 5

had to beat the dark, handsome young Montreal product with excellence all the way, for despite spectacular shotmaking by his opponent throughout, Thompson never once indicated any weakness in his game nor lack of a fighting heart. Horne won on confidence and terrific power. Thompson at no time beat himself. After his battle with Horne, Thompson declared that he was through with the golf professional business unless he could obtain a better post than that which he then occupied. A short conversation with him denoted that there was no doubt of his sound ideas concerning golf. This plus a pleasant personality should make him ably suited to teach. Any club would find such a young man an asset. Whether or not he "lands" the post we may safely say that in Bill Thompson, Montreal has produced for Canada a player capable of developing into first magnitude "tournament timber."

### CAN YOU READ TEES

Continued from page 7

golfer generally hits straightest when he feels the widest fairways beckoning. Narrow-looking fairways unconsciously bring about tension and inaccuracy. This matter of reading tee grounds has, however, much to do with one's personal golfing habits and judgment. For instance "controlled" hookers and slicers are likely to be influenced, whether they realized it or not, in picking a side of the teeing ground. Each player should be able to size up the outstretched fairway to suit his own particular tendency in driving.

There is such a thing as choosing the side of tees so as to "play percentages" on courses characterized by narrow fairways. Yet even a resolution to adopt this sort of plan may be foiled by wily greensmen who, desirous of making their courses seem difficult in tournament play, will deliberately set tee markers subtly in such a way as to induce a chance-taking line to the hole. This little trick is responsible for many errors among the unthinking. Even carelessness in setting up markers will lure many to play toward a narrow part of the fairway.

Hence the motto should be to more or less disregard tee markers; use them only as general guides—not as indicators of actual direction. The best thought is always to tee up on that part of the tee from which the fairway ahead appears the widest.



was the last round of the year and moved him into this prominent position in the nick of time. Snead won \$20,000 in 1938-39, his greatest season. Picard won \$10,303 this year.

**Todd Takes Over in Guldahl's Place**

Jimmy Todd, rated two years ago by CANADIAN GOLFER as Canada's No. 2 amateur golfer may well illustrate the boy who made good in the shortest possible time. The Victoria left-hander who turned professional under Ralph Guldahl last year recently took over Guldahl's post at Braeburn Country Club N. Y. Jimmy's quiet personable manner and keen insight of the game put him in line for this important job. Next to Canadian Roy Bronson, Toronto product who is professional at the smart Brae Burn Club in Boston, Todd's appointment is undoubtedly the highest tribute which has been paid in such a manner to a Canadian pro. Incidentally Bronson succeeded Denny Shute, former British Open and U.S.P.G.A. match play titlist at Brae Burn. Hence two Canadians have stepped into the footsteps of America's greatest.

the Quebec Willingdon Cup team on several occasions and serving as Honorary Secretary Treasurer of the Province of Quebec Golf Association. He is also one of the outstanding ski-runners in the Laurentian Zone.

Mr. Taylor's efforts on behalf of golf during the past nine years have been many and *Canadian Golfer* joins with his numerous friends across Canada in wishing him "par or better" in his future business connections.

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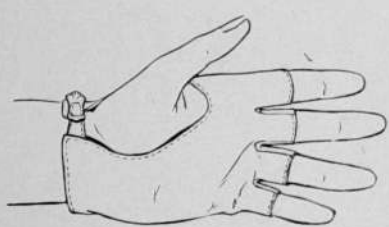
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## Looking For and Aft

WITH AMERICAN PROS.

### 1940 Offers \$175,000

Tournaments offering prize money totalling \$175,000 during 1940 are on the United States Professional Golf Association schedule. Under new president Tom Walsh the U.S.P.G.A. seems likely to continue its splendid course through another year. "Straight-shooting" George Jacobus, president of the Association during its formative years, has resigned in favor of hard-working Tom, who hies from Chicago. Jacobus is Honorary president. Bobby Jones and Walter Hagen are Honourary Vice-presidents.

### Jacobus Succeeded by Walsh

The change in presidents was precipitated as an act "for the good of the association" following the mix-up which occurred when Denny Shute sent in his entrance money for the 1939 P.G.A. tournament late! The Committee voted to uphold rules and keep Denny out. The professionals decided to "walk out" on the tournament which was to be held in conjunction with the World Fair if this was done. This would have given the Association a "black-eye" with the sponsors and the world generally. Jacobus, however, broke the impasse, took the "bull by the horns", overrode the Committee and allowed the twice winner of the event to play. This act, while in the Association's best interest at the time, made "wo-fisted" George feel it was best to "leave" the Chair and thus erase any chance of future friction through the precedent he had created.

### Leaves Fine Record

They may find better men in the future than this same Mr. Jacobus in the U.S.P.G.A., but never one who will leave more accomplished behind him, nor a finer record for having held the Association first at all times. New prexy Tom Walsh is a splendid organizer; excellent golfer and certainly the logical man to follow Jacobus.

### Picard Top Man in 1940

Henry Picard, won the Vardon Trophy this year "nosing out" Open champion Byron Nelson. He also was 1939 top money "taker" and winner of the P.G.A. title. The unplayed Ryder Cup matches did not stop U.S.A. from naming their team. Five men, Jacobus, Hagen, Ed Dudley, Leo Deigel and Olin Dutra sent in ten nominations each. The following were picked on this basis being judged on the last two year's records. Vic Ghezzi, Ralph Guldahl, Dick Metz, Byron Nelson, Henry Picard, Paul Runyan, Horton Smith, Harold McSpaden, Jimmie Hines and Sam Snead.

### Important Dates Announced

The following are the dates of the winted Circuit tournaments on the U.S.P.G.A. schedule. Incidentally, the dates for the U.S. amateur championships are September 9-14 at Winged Foot. The U. S. Open takes place at Canterbury Country Club, Cleveland, June 6-8. This course is one of which Ralph Guldahl is very fond. He won the Western Open there in 1937.

## Old Rule Losing Ground

NEW YORK DROPS STYMIE

When the United States Golf Association at its last annual meeting intimated that for another year at least it intended to continue its modified stymie rule it seemed to imply that golfers of the United States were thoroughly satisfied to play the shot when the ball to be hurdled was six inches or more from the cup. It seems, however, that while there has been no open conflagration anti-stymie fires are smouldering.

Even in New York State opposition to any kind of stymie has been growing apace. Along the Mohawk Valley and as far as Buffalo there were many who did not care for the rule even as amended. Two years ago the U. S. G. A. decided to call it a stymie only when the obstructing ball was six inches from the cup in addition to six inches from the stymied ball. The new ruling said nothing about the self-laid stymie, which many golfers felt is the only condition warranting a penalty.

### Stymie Ruled Out

At its recent annual meeting, the New York State Golf Association decided to take the stymie by the horns and toss it out completely. A motion to this effect made by John A. Ahearn, of the Wanakah Club of Buffalo, seconded by the new state president, William B. Stark, of Syracuse, was carried unanimously.

It does not follow that the stymie during the coming season will be on the run from Niagara to Montauk. The Metropolitan Golf Association still keeps step with the U. S. G. A. But upstate many member clubs will follow the lead of the state body and, in any event, there will be no stymies this year in the state championships. ○

## WILL THEY LAUGH

Continued from page 4

So, you see, old and young just had to learn the game as best they could. It is remarkable that the three players just referred to, broke nearly every one of our accepted rules for the correct method of playing golf; but it is equally true that these three, among them, managed to win more than a dozen Championships—Open and Amateur.

Surely golf is a strange game! ○

### Winter Circuit Dates in Toto.

Dec. 14-17—Miami \$10,000 Open, Miami Springs, Fla . . . . .	\$10,000
1940	
Jan. 5-8—Los Angeles Open . . . . .	5,000
Jan. 11-14—Oakland Open . . . . .	5,000
Jan. 12-14—P.G.A. Seniors' Champ., Saratoga, Fla. . . . .	
Jan. 17-21—San Francisco Match Play Championship . . . . .	5,000
Jan. 27-28—Bing Crosby Invitational (Rancho Sante Fe) . . . . .	3,000
Feb. 3-4—Phoenix-Ariz. . . . .	3,000
Feb. 8-11—Texas Open xChampionship, San Antonio, Texas . . . . .	5,000
Feb. 16-18—Western Open Championship, Houston, Texas . . . . .	5,000
Feb. 22-25—New Orleans Open . . . . .	10,000
Feb. 28-29—St. Petersburg (Fla.) . . . . .	3,000
Mar. 3-6—Miami-Biltmore Four-Ball Invitation . . . . .	5,000
Mar. 9-10—Tentative . . . . .	
Mar. 14-17—St. Augustine Pro-Amateur Championship . . . . .	3,000
Mar. 19-21—North and South Open, Pinehurst, N. C. . . . .	4,000
Mar. 23-25—Greater Greensboro Open, Greensboro, N. C. . . . .	5,000
Mar. 28-31—Asheville Open, Asheville, N. C. . . . .	5,000
Apr. 4-7—Masters' Augusta National G. C. . . . .	5,000

## R. C. G. A. ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Royal Canadian Golf Association will be held on Wednesday, February 7th 1940 at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, at 4.00 p.m.

Representatives of as many clubs as possible to attend are invited, whether delegates or not, appointment of delegates must be certified by secretaries of clubs represented or they will not be entitled to vote at the meeting.

# GOLF

## Heads The Parade

GOLF .....	515,610
TENNIS & BADMINTON .....	424,613
	<u>TOTAL \$940,223</u>
BILLIARDS, BOWLING AND FOOTBALL .....	267,636
HOCKEY .....	174,344
BASKET BALL .....	153,830
SKIING .....	170,072
	<u>TOTAL \$765,582</u>

### Golfing, Tennis and Badminton Canada's Most Expensive Sports

Ottawa, December 5. — (CP) — During 1938 golfing was Canada's most expensive sport, and Canadians spent \$515,610 on golfing supplies of all kinds.

Next most costly sports, the report revealed, were tennis and badminton. The Canadian public bought \$424,613 worth of equipment for them.

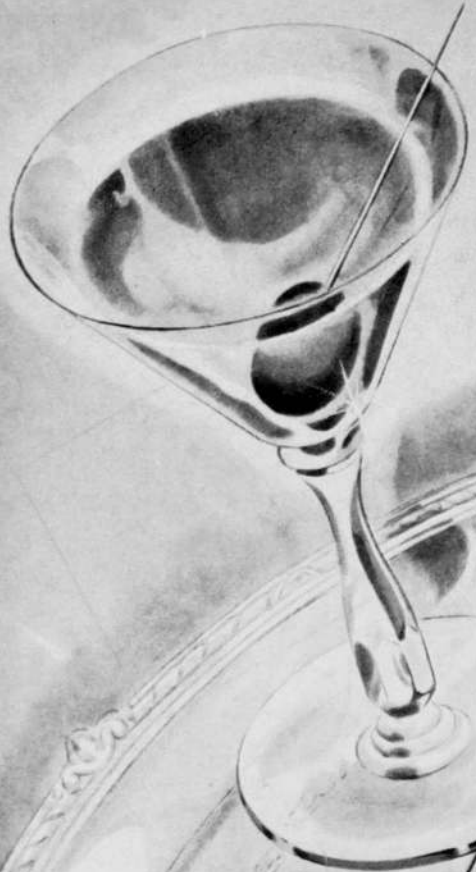
## More Money Spent on Golf, Tennis and Badminton than Six Other Leading Sports Combined For Accessories

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