



By OUR BRITISH CORRESPONDENT

LONDON, MAY 11, 1909.

Mr. Travers's doings since his arrival on this side have been followed with keen interest, and have been chronicled daily in the newspapers. At the outset he was undoubtedly suffering from his voyage and from change in conditions, and he cut up rather badly in practise at Prestwick and Troon, though after he had been here three or four days he gave a fine game to Archie Aitken, Prestwick's best amateur and a Scottish international player, and beat him by a hole. Mr. Travers says that he likes Prestwick better than any other course he has ever seen, and he is particularly struck with its famous Alps hole, being the seventeenth. Since then he has come on somewhat in his game, but he is hardly up to championship standard yet, and my own view is that he made a mistake in spending much time on the relaxing west Scotland coast at the outset. Since leaving there he has been in Yorkshire, and just as I write has gone to Gullane hard by Muirfield to start his final practise on the championship course. He is making friends wherever he goes, and is having a very good time. The entries for the championship close at the beginning of next week, and the golf world is already getting excited about the prospects of the event, particularly as various players, including H. E. Taylor who went to the final last year, have begun to show some dazzling form. It will be the greatest championship meeting there has ever been, and goodness only knows who is going to win. Of course a great deal depends on the draw. Mr. Maxwell, who has been such a good favorite during the spring, did not play at all well at the spring meeting of the Royal and Ancient

Club which was held at St. Andrews last week, this being the most important event of its kind that has been held so far. At the famous seventeenth hole, or "road" hole as it is most frequently called, which is often described as the most difficult hole in the world, although it is just a par 5 and a dead certain 6 to anybody who is satisfied with that figure, he actually took ten strokes! By the way the chief office in golf, so far as honor and dignity, as apart from play is concerned, is the captaincy of the Royal and Ancient Club, and it has just been announced that Lord Kinross is to have it for next year.

The great professionals are now hard at it, and have got the busiest and most-moneyed season they have ever had in front of them. Braid and Taylor have just given a severe drubbing to two youngsters, Duncan and Mayo who had challenged them to play for £200 which they did, and the following week there was a big professional tournament at Cruden Bay in Scotland, and curiously enough Braid and Taylor got into the final. Then Taylor won.

A golfer of considerably more than local fame, who was in fact known to a large body of American players, passed away at Hoylake a few days since. That was poor old "Tom" Potter, one of the most genial and kindly hearted souls who have ever lived. He was one of the pioneers of golf at Hoylake, and the bosom friend of the late John Ball, father of the John Ball of to-day. For a long time he was Honorary Secretary of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, and had much to do with the management of the Amateur Championship when it first started, the open competition that led up to this tournament being established, having been held at Hoylake.

He was a great favorite at Hoylake, and made everybody welcome there so far as he was able. When he first heard of THE AMERICAN GOLFER about to be published he wrote to me asking if I could give him any particulars, and I believe he was the first British subscriber to the paper.

Quite a scare has been raised among golf clubs in this country, particularly those that are run by limited companies, of which the number is already large and increasing, by a clause in the Budget just introduced into Parliament by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to provide the National funds for next year. It is proposed to put a tax of a halfpenny in the pound on undeveloped land when the capital value of that land is not below £50 an acre, unless the public are given free access to it for their enjoyment. This will not affect many clubs in Scotland or Ireland, where the land for the most part is below the value named, but in the neighborhood of the leading pro-

vincial cities, and more particularly round about London, it means that the golf clubs will in many cases have from thirty or forty pounds a year upward to pay in respect of this tax. Some of the land on which London courses are laid out is worth £600 or £700 an acre and is much coveted by the builders who are taking every opportunity of acquiring it. However the clubs for the most part can quite well afford to pay. The tax will severely affect speculators who take over virgin estates, make golf courses on them, and then ask £200 an acre for land that would not have fetched £20 before the golf course was made.

P. S.—Mr. Travers has been drawn to meet Mr. W. A. Henderson, of the Royal and Ancient Club, in the first round. In the 1908 Championship Mr. Henderson beat Mr. A. T. Broughton, of Birkdale, by 1 up in the first round, but was beaten 2 up and 1 to play in the second round by Mr. George S. Lyon, the Canadian champion.



LA84  
Foundation