



NEW ENGLAND NOTES

By " BUNKER HILL "

(Summaries of New England Events will be found under the heading, "Competitions")

Loyalty to the United States Golf Association was the note struck by speaker after speaker at the annual meeting and dinner of the Massachusetts Golf Association, held at the Exchange Club, Boston, on the evening of Jan. 17. Mr. G. Herbert Windeler, president of the local association, started the ball rolling and then Mr. Herbert Jaques, president of the United States Golf Association spoke briefly and to the point upon the aim and objects of the national organization. Mr. John Shepard, Jr., of the Rhode Island Golf Association, gave his views and Mr. C. C. Bell of the Brae-Burn Country Club brought the gathering of nearly 100 golfers to their feet with the following toast: "So, gentlemen, a toast I pledge, to our grand recreation, To golfers all, who play the game, no matter what their station; May we 'hole out' when we 'lay dead' and win what Heaven offers. United still, come well or ill, a 'well up' band of golfers."

Mr. R. R. Freeman, secretary of the Massachusetts Golf Association, read a report of the principal tournaments and meetings held during 1909, noting that the organization had had the biggest year in its history, holding nearly 40 tournaments as well as open and amateur championship,

these being attended by upwards of 3,000 golfers. He also alluded to the Lesley cup matches, to the team matches with the Associations of Connecticut and Rhode Island and to the interclub team matches in which the Country Club carried away the chief honors. Mr. E. B. Conant, treasurer of the Association, noted a balance of about \$16 to start the season with, the organization having pulled itself out of debt and with the increasing interest in the game, being now on a firm financial foundation. The report of the Handicapping Committee analyzed all the events held during the year in detail and showed gratifying results, the prizes having been distributed in the fairest possible way and the committee with the aid of the club handicappers being able to keep a constant check on the form of 2,700 players who were given ratings. In some cases the winning net scores were lower than the system called for, but that was due to some player doing better than he ever had in his life and to the dry condition of the links which made them easier to play by the run of golfers all the way from five to eight strokes.

When President Windeler began his remarks at the dinner, the mention of

Mr. Jaques' name was the signal for cheers and the health of the United States Golf Association and of the Massachusetts Golf Association was drunk standing. Mr. Windeler declared amidst much enthusiasm that Mr. Jaques had upheld worthily the dignity and character of his position as president of the national organization. To Mr. John Shepard, Jr., Mr. Windeler turned with the remark that the team matches with Rhode Island and Connecticut were with the Lesley cup matches the most enjoyable events of the year. In the matter of improvement to golf courses, Mr. Windeler submitted that Massachusetts stood as high and perhaps higher than any part of the United States mentioning the high rank of the Myopia links and the great improvements that had been made at The Country Club, the Oakley Country Club, the Brae-Burn Country Club, the Essex Country Club and the Wollaston Golf Club, and to these must be added the construction work being undertaken by the Country Club of Springfield and the Merrimack Valley Country Club of Lawrence. Again the association could congratulate itself on its new member, the Belmont Spring Country Club. He said he had looked over the country of this new club and he considered that it had the finest foundation for a links that he had seen and that he was sure that in a few years the club would have one of the best courses in the country.

Referring to the Lesley Cup match at Philadelphia, where Massachusetts was defeated by Pennsylvania, Mr. Windeler said that on the eve of the match he had looked over the names of the team with Mr. Walter J. Travis and that that eminent authority had

said that Massachusetts seemed to have the best team on paper of the three which had met to play for the cup. However, matches were not won on paper, and it would be the hope of the local association to do better when the Lesley cup matches were played on a home links, as they would be this season. The aim would be to get out the very best team and if the matches were played at The Country Club, as seemed to be the plan, these golfers would have every opportunity for practice over the Clyde Park links, particularly as it was expected that the United States Amateur Championship would be held at The Country Club. It promised to be a big year for local golf and he asked for the support of the Association in making the meetings a success. In addition to the United States Amateur Championship and the Lesley Cup matches, there seemed to be a probability that the championship meeting of the Intercollegiate Golf Association would be held on some links in the Boston district so that the local cup of golf would be full to the brim of interesting events.

In conclusion Mr. Windeler said that doubtless the golfers had heard the rumors of disaffection in the west with the organization of the United States Golf Association. He was in favor of the broadest possible lines being applied to that organization and was earnestly in hope that if there was a spirit of unrest steps would be taken so that the country would never be divided in its golf interests. He deplored the fact that at Chicago a campaign had been conducted through the newspapers and a magazine with the object of disrupting the United States Golf Association. He feared

that this was done largely with the aim of increasing the sale of these newspapers and the magazine and not with the idea of helping the game of golf. For an American Golf Association to be started and to play under different rules he looked upon as something too horrible to contemplate. It was of the first importance that all clubs should be loyal to the premier association in this country—the United States Golf Association.

Mr. E. A. Wilkie, the clever toastmaster for the occasion, then introduced Mr. Herbert Jaques. Mr. Jaques declared that the Massachusetts Golf Association stood for the very best there is in the game of golf. He congratulated the Association upon its success and upon the spirit of good fellowship that prevailed that evening. Dealing with golf in a national sense Mr. Jaques said that the play of the young amateurs of Chicago was one of the most encouraging signs of the times. He hoped that if the United States Amateur championship were voted to The Country Club at Brookline that a large number of these fine golfers would come east for the tournament and that the Massachusetts men would be able to give them a match. Mr. Jaques also had something to say about the development of young native professionals noting the success of Thomas L. McNamara in the open championship at Englewood last June. He also spoke in high terms of the ladies who play golf in the championship meetings characterizing them as representing the very best kind of sportsmanship. Mr. Jaques said that every officer of the United States Golf Association had done his best for the game and it would be his endeavor as well as that

of his brother officers to promote the best interests of the game to the utmost of their ability.

Mr. John Shepard, Jr., made an amusing speech incidentally letting out the secret that Rhode Island meant to send a winning team to play Massachusetts this year. Mr. Harry L. Ayer was described by the toastmaster as the arch past-master of detail and the story was told on Mr. Ayer that when he was asked why he was going to church that Mr. Ayer replied that "it was to see the organ loft." At the meeting upward of 20 clubs were represented and some of the prominent players present were as follows:

The Country Club—Messrs. George F. Willett and John Richardson.

Wollaston Golf Club—Messrs T. M. Claflin, T. R. Fuller, George Wright and Joseph Campbell.

Vesper Country Club of Lowell—Messrs. Henry H. Wilder, A. G. Swapp and G. C. Dempsey.

Allston Golf Club—Messrs. F. H. Hoyt and T. A. Ashley.

Brae-Burn Country Club—Messrs. W. C. Chick, Percival Gilbert, A. H. Gilbert, G. H. Converse, Samuel MacDonald, John F. Morrill, C. C. Bell, I. W. Small, and A. E. Burr.

Commonwealth Country Club—Messrs. Henry Thornton, J. W. Kennedy and Arthur L. Johnson.

Tedesco Country Club of Swampscott—Mr. I. W. Chick.

Alpine Golf Club of Fitchburg—Mr. C. T. Crocker, Jr.

Country Club of New Bedford—Mr. W. E. Hatch.

Country Club of Springfield—Mr. Ralph P. Alden.

Framingham Country Club—Messrs. E. G. Larned and F. W. Howe.

Winchester Country Club—Messrs. G. M. Brooks and E. R. Rooney.

Woodland Golf Club of Auburndale—Messrs. John G. Anderson and J. E. Kedian.

Merrimack Valley Country Club of Lawrence—Messrs. R. A. Hale and M. Mills.

Meadow Brook Golf Club of Reading—Mr. R. W. Brown.

Lexington Golf Club—Messrs. H. C. O'Brien and J. A. Gutheim.

Chester Hill Golf Club—Mr. M. L. Crosby.

Belmont Spring Country Club—Mr. J. Chester Hutchinson.

Cohasset Golf Club—Mr. H. H. Faxon.

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Every state in New England has its golf association, so that if it should be decided to reorganize the United States Golf Association, giving the voting power to junior or subsidiary associations to the national organization, it would be a simple matter to do so, for the machinery already exists for the transfer of the votes from the associate clubs. The Massachusetts Golf Association always has made its membership dependent on membership first in the United States Golf Association, and with the reorganization, the associations of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island could make a similar provision, thus knitting the various bodies in a compact organization.

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In the Massachusetts Golf Association are 43 clubs, and with a reorganization of the United States Golf Association probably 15 more clubs would join, these being small clubs that have not seen their way clear to pay dues to two associations, and

remaining outside of the fold. It has been a question in Massachusetts whether the local organization would not have grown faster if the provision requiring membership in the United States Golf Association had been abandoned, but the leaders in the organizing movement always have insisted upon loyalty to the national organization and have worked out their salvation on these lines. The Metropolitan and Pennsylvania associations also make their membership dependent on membership in the United States Golf Association, and it has been the aim of the men who founded the national association to have all the minor associations connected in this way, but the Western Golf Association has been an independent organization and has run its affairs to suit itself with a tendency to work out its objects on its own lines, even going so far as to adopt rules which are not those of St. Andrews and of the United States Golf Association.

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In New England the disaffection with the organization of the United States Golf Association which has found expression chiefly at Chicago, has been generally deplored and a movement to restore national harmony in the game of golf is very welcome. Not until the last few months has it become known that there was such a strong feeling in the middle west about the organization of the game, but now that golfers in New England have been posted on the trouble, they are unanimous in feeling that the harmony of the game in the national sense should be preserved at all costs. So many golfers from the middle west spend their summers at New England resorts that it is felt that it would be a pity to have these visitors play-

ing under a different code of rules and belonging to an association which was not working with the United States Golf Association in promoting the objects and interests of the game. From the beginning New England has been loyal to the United States Golf Association, in fact its organization and work has been so acceptable that the movement of the machinery has been almost imperceptible as is the aim of all good government.

To promote the interests of golf, to conduct the championship meetings, to preserve a uniform code of rules, to care for the amateur status of the game and to maintain the integrity, spirit, traditions and ideals of the game, always have been the aim of the United States Golf Association, and though good work has been done in rewriting the constitution of the organization, the sport has been well fostered under the original constitution. If it is found advisable to reorganize the United States Golf Association to meet the views of the middle west, it would be well to understand what the framers of the original constitution had in mind when they divided the clubs of the country into two classes of membership, one voting and one non-voting. Writing some four years after the organization of the United States Golf Association, Mr. Laurence Curtis, one of its founders, had this to say: "The membership in the Association is divided into two classes, associate and allied clubs. The former practically control everything. Their privileges are: Power to vote at meetings, each club having two votes (now one) by delegates or proxies; eligibility of their members to election to offices; eligibility of their

clubs to hold the championship meetings over their links; power to admit other clubs to membership—in a word, to exercise all the duties and powers and enjoy the privileges of administration; and for these each associate club pays into the treasury annual dues of \$100, (now \$50.) It requires a five-sevenths vote of the executive committee to secure membership as an associate club."

"Allied clubs, whose yearly dues are \$25, (now \$10), may be elected by a majority vote of the executive committee; they have the right to be represented at the meetings by one delegate, but with no power to vote. Their members are eligible to compete in the championship meetings and other meetings open to members of Association clubs. A question often asked is, 'What is the method of joining the Association?' The answer is best made by quoting Article XI of the Association: 'Application for membership.—Applications for associate and allied membership shall be made in writing to the secretary of the Association, accompanied by a copy of the constitution and by-laws of the club making the application, a list of officers and a full year's dues, and an election shall be held at the next meeting of the executive committee, provided such application shall have been filed with the secretary at least fourteen days prior to said election.'

"While the constitution does not provide what requirements shall be made of clubs as to their qualifications to be admitted to membership in the Association, it is held that such clubs must be regularly organized, officered and managed for the sole object of golf, and not for the purpose of booming a hotel or land scheme, or such

other enterprise; that, while they are not required to own their land or their club houses, they should at least control such premises by lease or some fixity of tenure, and that the number of their members, or the amount of their annual dues, should be sufficient to suitably maintain their organizations with promise of permanence of life and otherwise fulfilling the requirements of the game."

"Men ask us, 'Why should our club join the association at all?' We should answer, 'Because you thereby gain for your members the opportunity and privilege of playing in the championship meetings, and at many local meetings from which you would otherwise be excluded; also, of holding meetings of your own, at which members of other clubs will reciprocate with you and measure skill and good-fellowship with you.'"

"Again, 'Why should our club expend \$100, (now \$50) annual dues to join as an associate club?' We answer, 'Do not do so unless your club is ambitious of being qualified to hold some of the championship events on its links, or desirous of taking part by its votes in the government of the Association; or by the eligibility of its members to election to office in the Association, for otherwise, by paying only the \$25, (now \$10) annual dues of an allied club, your members all have the other privileges attendant thereon as above stated.'

"It has been suggested that the discrimination between associate and allied clubs ought to be done away with, and that all clubs should be admitted on equal footing and conditions, with equal voting power at the annual and other meetings. To this we should answer that the government of the

Association would be less centralized and compact and efficient; that it would involve the inconveniences attached to the deliberations of a too large body of delegates, the danger of mob law or ill-advised legislation; whereas by the present method of a more restricted number of associate clubs paying a larger fee, the privileges thereby enjoyed are confined presumably to the most important and best equipped large clubs, whose good management, experience and care insure the exercise on their part of correct and reliable judgment in regard to the needs of the game and of the Association."

"One of the objects of the Association as set forth in the constitution, viz., 'To establish and enforce uniformity in the rules of the game,' was sought in the revision of the rules. The executive committee were careful not to change the wording of the rules as they stand in the revised version of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, which are recognized as the binding rules of the game. Rulings of the U. S. G. A. were merely added, explanatory of or amplifying the intentions of the rules. Critics continue to accuse the Association of having changed the rules. It is astonishing that after the numerous explanations of this matter critics should still be so ignorant as to renew this plaint."

"The rulings of the committee have now stood the test of time and trial, and it may be fairly said that they have stood it well. That they are not perfect in making the understanding of the rules an exact science is evidenced by constant demands for decisions on doubtful points, but such demand only proves the very need of

the work that was done, and that was undoubtedly well done, and that work has shown the lines on which a new revision and codification should be undertaken by a committee which should command the support of the whole golfing world. Such a committee ought to originate within the Royal and Ancient Club in Scotland."

By quoting the above from the pen of Mr. Laurence Curtis it will readily be seen that the founders of the U. S. Golf Association built wisely and that the problems which have been brought up by the attitude of the Western Golf Association were present when the national Association was organized and were dealt with by the framers of the constitution which has served the Association so well for 15 years. In any event the making of two classes of membership was done after careful thought, discussion and deliberation. When considering a change it would be well for the ideas so clearly set forth by Mr. Curtis to be given their proper place in the history of the organization of the Association.

The golf committee of the Myopia Hunt Club of Hamilton has announced that as far as constructive work is concerned the links of the club is finished. It has been a work of 16 years by men who have spared neither time nor money in their attempt to make the course one of the best in the world. The committee made a study of golf courses visiting the best links in the world and reproducing their features in many ways as far as the country available for the course rendered this possible. In these days when so many links are being brought up to the modern requirements of the

game it is something for a committee to be able to look over its work and say, "We have done all we intend to in the matter of construction." Any further work on the course will be merely the matter of up-keep and as the years roll by this classical course promises to become better than ever in the matter of turf.

Improvements to the second hole and to the home hole wound up the work at Myopia. The second shot to the second hole is now a splendid test of long and accurate play. A bunker has been introduced into the fairway on the near side of the green so that the second shot must have a full carry to reach the green. Doubtless many a golfer will be contented to reach the green in three shots, but it will be a great satisfaction to the brilliant golfer to get home in two. To make the outlook for the second shot more attractive, a row of hillocks, for the distance of 80 yards have been introduced and the player who gets off the line will find himself in a critical position.

Play to the home hole at Myopia has been made more interesting by the introduction of two cunningly placed pot bunkers. The first of these now catches a long ball if it happens to be sliced. Then a bunker has been cut into the green and so placed that the drive must be made right in order to get a view of the flag and have a commanding position to play a critical shot with mid-iron or mashie. This small bunker is indicated by a mound built on the bank above the green. It will be possible to so place the hole on this green that it will take a brilliant shot to get near the flag and yet avoid the bunker.