



NEW ENGLAND DEPARTMENT

By "BUNKER HILL"



HE WAS NOT a golfer, but he knew a little something about the game; in fact, he knew just enough about it to be very much puzzled over some things. Of course it must be admitted that he was handicapped from the fact that in some of the points which puzzled him he was trying to apply the rules of common sense and they did not seem to square with the rules of golf. He went out one day to see his golfing friend play a rather important match in an open tournament. There was nothing puzzling about the play at the first two holes, which were halved in 4s. At the third hole, his friend drove a beauty ball, far down the fairway, but as nearly as could be seen from the tee, the ball when it struck the turf bounded almost at right angles toward the long grass. Still, it was an eminently satisfactory shot to the player, both as to direction and distance, for he did not believe it could possibly have kicked so badly as to go into the rough. Moreover, his opponent stepped on to the tee and promptly sliced one out of bounds, over on the railroad tracks. He drove another and topped it badly, so that he had played three strokes before

his ball was abreast of the point where the first player's ball was supposed to be. No other ball was in sight, however. It not only had taken a bad kick into the rough, but it apparently had kicked itself right out of existence, for a long search failed to reveal its hiding place. After five minutes of search, the player whose ball was lost said: "All right, Blank, come ahead, I've used up my five minutes. It's your hole". The man who was so little acquainted with the game approached his friend and queried: "What do you do in a case like that?"

"I lose the hole," responded his friend.

"What? You lose the hole after that fine shot and despite what your opponent has done?"

"That's it; that's the rule".

"Well, I must say it's a funny-rule," remarked the embryo.

A couple of holes later, both players got good distance off the tee, but whereas the opponent's ball made a good part of its distance through being half-topped and getting a long run, Embryo's friend secured his distance with a long carry and a fairly high ball. It did not bound after striking and when they arrived they found the ball sunk almost beyond its own depth in the soft ground. The opposing player put his second on the green, but Embryo's friend had to dig his out with a niblick, for

only a couple of yards, though he put enough force into the stroke to tear up several inches of turf.

"Didn't you have the right to take the ball out of the turf?" said Embryo. "Surely you aren't supposed to be penalized when you've played by far the better shot."

"That, unfortunately, is the rule," was the response. "I'll confess it is a bit tough on me."

Everything seemed to be working against embryo's friend this day, notwithstanding that he never had been hitting the ball longer or more accurately. He caught his opponent at the twelfth and at the short thirteenth he played one of those shots which delight the eye of the expert . . . a mashie shot, not too high, but with a "barrel" of backspin. It took the bite in fine style and stopped two yards from the cup, but the backspin in a way did its work too well, viz., it picked up a sizable lump of mud. Opponent did not reach the green, but chipped on and holed a twelve footer for a 3. Embryo's friend still had a fine chance to win the hole with a 2, but the lump of mud turned the ball off and he came near missing the short putt for a half. When he came off the green, his friend Embryo queried:

"Didn't you have a right to remove that mud from your ball?"

"No", responded friend, "the rules of golf don't allow it."

"What an astonishing state of affairs," murmured Embryo.

The match was even going to the seventeenth, where Embryo's friend in attempting to pitch dead to the hole, just beyond a bunker, landed in the sand and in a deep heel print. He only succeeded in getting it out

of the hole with one shot and had to play another to get on the green. His opponent, after topping his drive, played short of the bunker in two, on in three and won the hole in 5 to 6. Of course deep heel prints are not supposed to be part of a bunker, but not all golfers are thoughtful enough to cover their tracks in a bunker and Embryo's friend merely happened to be one of the victims. He showed his courage by getting away a long and straight drive for the eighteenth hole, where his opponent appeared nervous and sliced badly, into the rough. He was about a yard ahead of Embryo's friend after playing two and then Embryo's friend played the finest shot of the day, an approach which left him a foot and a half putt from the hole, for a 3 to square the match. It looked like certain extra hole, or holes, especially when the Opponent's third went well off the line. But the Fates were having a big day against Embryo's friend. They landed opponent's ball against a tree twenty-five yards to the right of the green and then sent it bounding toward the hole. It actually brought up on the lip of the cup and a dead stymie. The "sure" 3 which Embryo's friend had a moment before became visionary and a half in four meant nothing in his golfing life, for he was one down. He tried to jump directly into the cup, but the "miracle" of that hole already had taken place when the other man's ball carromed off the tree.

"Why should you be deprived of the right of an unobstructed putt for the hole?" queried Embryo.

"You've got me," said his friend.

"Well," remarked Embryo, as they

headed for the clubhouse, "I'm glad the fellows who made the rules of golf didn't have anything to do with the rules of other games; for as nearly as I can figure it, in a hundred-yard dash they might have one man running along the smooth side of the track and put up hurdles in the track of his opponent."

THE Massachusetts Golf Association has gone on record as in favor of a modification of the stymie rule. This happened at the Association's annual meeting in Boston the afternoon of January 17. Just about the time that all the regular business has concluded and the way was open for a motion to adjourn, one of the delegates brought up the matter of the stymie and suggested that the Association go on record as favoring at least a modification of the present rule. It was suggested that there might be considered, for example, a rule that where one ball is within twelve inches of the cup and in line with another ball, the ball nearer the hole be lifted. This at least would do away with the situation which so often crops up, where one ball is on the lip of the cup and shuts off the ball which may not be more than a foot away. By making a 12-inch stymie zone, the stymie would not be entirely eliminated, yet there would be that much amount of space left to the person stymied in which to bring his skill into play of getting around the ball nearer the hole. One of the delegates remarked that there was no sense in taking any action on the stymie, in that the Massachusetts Golf Association had nothing to do with the making or changing of the rules. It was pointed out,

however, that if all the district associations in the country went on record with respect to a certain rule or anything else affecting the game in a national way, their action surely would have some influence with the parent body. Treasurer Everett S. Litchfield finally sponsored a motion to place the Massachusetts Golf Association on record as favoring a modification of the stymie rule and it was carried, 15 to 6. Those who oppose even a modification of the rule seem to forget there is today one modification of stymie, i. e., when there is a stymie with two balls within six inches of each other, the ball nearer the hole is lifted.

TO FORM an opinion of the prospective enthusiasm over golf in Massachusetts the coming season on the basis of attendance at the annual meeting of the M. G. A. would present a doleful outlook. There were delegates present from only fourteen clubs and for a time it was feared that the meeting would be without a quorum. One of the reasons, doubtless, was that this year's meeting was without the usual drawing attraction of a dinner following the business meeting. The apathy attendant upon the annual meeting was in direct contrast, however, with other 1919 symptoms. All of the mid-winter signs point to one of the liveliest seasons the game has ever known in the Bay State, not only in regard to the number of men playing the game, but also as regards the number of tournaments. In other years, the secretary of the Association has been obliged to prod and prod the clubs to send in their applications for open and invitation tournament dates held

during the season under the Association's auspices. He also considered himself lucky to get in a majority of the applications by the middle of March, or in time to straighten out the conflicting dates and issue a schedule around the first of April. This winter the applications began coming in before the old year was out and by the time of the annual meeting there had been as many applications received as generally is true of a period two months later. The outlook is that more tournaments will be held than ever before in the State. Secretary Stephenson expressed the hope, at the annual meeting, that more clubs would arrange their tournaments on a medal and match play basis than have done so the last two years. Doubtless they will do so, because the officials of a number of clubs felt that during the war they either should not hold open and invitation tournaments or else that they would cut down the number of days of play, on the ground that it was not patriotic to take the time of the golfers. Not only will there be more tournaments this year than ever before in Massachusetts in all likelihood, but it also looks now as if they would be largely attended and that a majority of the golfing leaders in the days "befo' the war" would be on hand again, along with those who have been coming along in the interim.

INDIRECT REFERENCE was made at the M. G. A. meeting of the possible resumption of the Lesley Cup competition and inter-state matches. It is only natural to suppose that both will be again in order. The fact that the Golf Association of Philadelphia

determined at its annual meeting, to resume championships, and that Mr. Robert W. Lesley, donor of the Lesley Cup, was re-elected president of that Association, was in itself indicative of cup matches the coming fall between the Massachusetts, Metropolitan and Pennsylvania districts. Certainly it would seem most advisable to take up the series again this year, for the reason that golf affairs ought to boom as never before and it would be indeed strange to leave out an event in which so much interest has been shown in the past and surely will again in future. There is every reason to believe, furthermore, that Lesley Cup matches this year would see the keenest of competition and brilliant play. What sort of a team Pennsylvania can muster is a little vague to the writer, but if some of the leading golfers of the Pittsburgh District get a business breathing spell, such as they have not had for three or four years, and can give a little more time to golf, and if there are two or three of the younger players around Philadelphia who develop a strong game, there is no reason why Pennsylvania should not be well represented. As for Massachusetts and the Metropolitan Districts, there is good reason to believe that they will be able to muster remarkably strong teams. Massachusetts will have Lieutenant Francis Ouimet back as leader,, now a full-fledged amateur and a better golfer than ever. By the time this article appears, he undoubtedly will have been mustered out of the army and he plans to play a great deal of tournament golf the coming season. He is going into the bond business, which means that there is no danger of any further entangle-

ment with the rules of amateurism. He and his brother-in-law, Mr. J. H. Sullivan, Jr., have decided not to re-enter the sporting goods business, and Mr. Sullivan also will engage in business which places him firmly within the amateur ranks, to which he was reinstated after he entered the Navy. Mr. Paul Tewksbury, the third Boston golfer who for a time was under the amateur ban, also is available once more and the best of it is that all three should begin their 1919 season better golfers than ever. . . . at least that deduction can be made from their few appearances in competition last year. So far as known to the writer, Massachusetts has not lost any of its leading amateur golfers in the war, although several of them were in the fighting. Lieutenant Ray R. Gorton is all right, according to latest reports, and Lieutenant R. de Z. Pierce, another Brae-Burn golfer, who represented Massachusetts in the last Lesley Cup matches, has come through unscathed. There is no end of other good material to be taken into account in reckoning up Lesley Cup team possibilities, including Mr. Jesse P. Guilford, Mr. Parker W. Whittemore, Mr. Rodney W. Brown, Mr. Percival Gilbert, Mr. Fred J. Wright, Jr., Mr. Henry H. Wilder, Mr. C. M. Amory, Mr. Tom Claflin, Mr. Larry B. Paton, Mr. A. M. Hoxie, Mr. Arnold Staatz, Mr. H. H. Marden, Mr. W. E. Smith, Mr. S. Trafford Hicks and several others, any one of whom might be selected. The fact of the matter is that if the cup matches are to be resumed this year, the captain of the State team and the committee serving with him in the selection of players will have to keep pretty close tabs on the season's performances if they wish to

pick in a manner strictly impartial and in keeping with the records of each golfer. From Metropolitan circles it would seem as if that Association will have a decided wealth of material available for a team. In this connection, it is worthy of mention that a friend of the writer, recently returned from France, tells of the fine golf being played on French courses by Mr. Henry J. Topping. A year or so ago the word was going the rounds that Mr. Topping had sustained so serious an injury to one of his legs that he would lose it.

AT THE Massachusetts Golf Association meeting these officers were elected: President, Mr. A. D. Locke, Brae-Burn; vice-president, Mr. Paul R. Clay, Merrimack Valley; treasurer, Mr. E. S. Litchfield, The Country Club; secretary, Mr. Barton K. Stephenson, Winchester Country Club; executive committee, the above-named officers, and Dr. J. A. Hamilton, Belmont Spring Country Club, Mr. Joshua Crane, Dedham Country & Polo Club, Mr. Horton Pushee, Weston Golf Club, Mr. H. J. Nichols, Albe-marle Golf Club and Mr. Samuel B. Reed, Wollaston Golf Club. A report turned in by State Handicapper Daniel Horan attested to the increasing interest in tournament play by the growth in the handicap list, which this year will contain well in excess of 6,000 names, or more than ever before.

GOLF in the Massachusetts District, as well as in general, has lost one of its greatest friends and keenest devotees in the death of Mr. Walter G. Clark of the Wollaston Golf Club. Mr. L. B. Folsom of the Woodland Golf Club and Mr. S. B. Reed of

Wollaston were appointed a committee to draw up resolutions on his death to be spread on the records of the Massachusetts Golf Association. Mr. Clark was one of the pioneers of golf in the Boston District and a great student of the game. He loved to discuss its fine points, especially with an expert. One of the things that he liked best about his annual winter trips south was the opportunities which it gave him of discussing golf with Mr. Walter J. Travis, for whose opinions he had the very highest regard. Mr. Clark was an indefatigable worker in the interests of the game. He was for a number of years on the green committee of the Wollaston Club and never let an opportunity go by for improving that course or for trying to urge upon the members the necessity of living carefully up to the rules and etiquette of the game. He always did this in a way that was inoffensive and the players were quick to realize that what he told them was said not in a spirit of criticism, but because he was so thoroughly in love with the game of golf that it was his constant desire to improve its standards. No man loved more to follow a good match. There unfortunately are comparatively few golfers who are willing to forgo their own round for the sake of seeing others perform, but Mr. Clark was not one of these. At all championships in the Greater Boston District and at the semi-finals or finals of important tournaments, amateur or professional, Mr. Clark was almost certain to be seen tramping around after the players in competition. He loved to watch their methods of play. It meant more to him to see how a star golfer held his club, what stance he had and

what he did with body, arms and wrists during a stroke than to watch where the ball went. In fact, if some golfers could learn to keep their eyes on the ball as well as he kept his on another player, studying his form, there would be more good golfers. Mr. Clark was one of those slight-built men, full of nervous energy, whose age is known only to his intimates and could not be guessed by others within a number of years of the actual figure. He was in his fifty-ninth year. Death was due to a carbuncle that formed on his lip and it was only a week from the time that he complained of a "cold sore" that he was dead. Less than four weeks previously, just after Christmas, he played at Wollaston in a four-ball match of which the writer was a member. At that time Mr. Clark was experimenting with a new stroke in which the wrists took more part in the stroke, and he was quite delighted with the results attained. He was hitting an extra long ball for a man of his frail physique and was playing more like his old game, which made him so consistent a performer at one time, than the writer has seen him for several years. He had one peculiarity in his swing which the writer never has seen in any other player and those who watched him play for the first time invariably were astounded at the results. The beginning of his backswing was in a series of three jerks, . . . nothing else describes the stroke. It was just as if his club-head had to be hauled over three successive obstacles before it could take the perpendicular. Frequently the club-head hit the ground on each of these three jerks. Even those who knew his game well always marvelled that he

could get the ball away so cleanly, but this he did almost invariably. He will be greatly missed at Wollaston and his death is a distinct loss to the Boston district.

ADVERTISEMENTS already have appeared noting that at least one make of golf ball will be sold this season at \$1.25 per ball. It will be interesting to note how the golfers take to this innovation. They have become so accustomed to advancing prices that hardly anything in that line causes a surprise nowadays, yet anything beyond \$1 for a golf ball . . . well, it remains to be seen. This particular ball is said to have more distance than its predecessor of the same name. That fact, if true, doubtless will be considerable of a factor. It has been demonstrated before now, in golf and in other lines, that some things are cheap at one figure where others are dear at a price considerably less. On the matter of distances, there are often heard the stories of this or that ball being "longer" than some other ball, the foundation for the claim being that the fact had been demonstrated by machine tests. Lieutenant Francis Ouimet, who knows a little about the flight of golf balls, is among those who place no great faith in what the machines tell about golf balls. The only test of a golf ball, in his estimation, is that of actual play. Peculiarities of stroke enter into the situation. One man gets his maximum of distance out of a ball which another golfer finds not nearly so long as another make and then the two perhaps go out and drive just about the same distances with the balls of their respective choice.

The writer well remembers how in

the four-ball Red Cross match at Baltusrol in which Lieutenant Francis Ouimet and Mr. Jesse Guilford won over Mr. Jerome D. Travers and Mr. Oswald Kirkby—the time Mr. Ouimet did the first five holes in a stroke each under par—the Lieutenant at the sixteenth hole drove a beauty far down the course, to the applause of an admiring gallery. Then Mr. Guilford stepped up and gave his ball a mighty swat. There was all the difference in the world between the sound of the two blows and the crowd let out an involuntary "Ooh" when Mr. Guilford hit. Not a person in the large gallery but who would have said that there was far greater force in Mr. Guilford's blow and all hands expected to find his ball far ahead, but there actually was a difference of only three or four yards. It is only reasonable to suppose that had Mr. Guilford been playing with a ball with a cover hard enough to better withstand the force of his blow, and still possessed of all the resiliency of the ball hit by Lieutenant Ouimet, he surely would have been many yards ahead for the actual power in his stroke surely must have been far greater. All this is more or less digression from the reference to a \$1.25 ball and its only relation to that subject is that if the rank and file of golfers find that a \$1.25 ball has more distance for their particular stroke, or has other attributes which they particularly like, they probably will buy it, irrespective of the greater outlay. That is the way with golfers.

THE WORLD of professional golf has been greatly stirred over the action of The Country Club with respect to the handling of the golf

shop the coming season and its new relations with its professional. Louis Tellier has been allowed to go and in his place Dan MacNamara, for eighteen years the club's caddy-master, has been engaged as both golf and skating instructor, on a straight salary. He will have complete charge of the shop a sort of superintendent of that branch of the club's activities coupled with the giving of lessons. The clubmaker will be hired by the club and all the other attendants. In other words, officials of the club want that department run on a straight business basis, not with the idea of making money, but of giving the members everything they have been getting, with the full expectation that such service will be had at reduced cost. The Country Club officials say they have no criticisms to make of Tellier or of professional golfers as a class. They simply feel that their plan is based upon sound principles and are ready to give it a trial. As The Country Club is an organization of great prominence, its experiment doubtless will attract a great deal of attention. Regarding Dan MacNamara, Tellier's successor, it can be stated that he is held in high regard by the club members, a fact pretty well attested by his eighteen years of service. He never has gone in for golf competition, but in the last year or two he has played much more than in former years and his game has developed rapidly. He is brother of Tom MacNamara and at the rate he has been coming along as a player it is apparent that playing ability is by no means unfairly distributed in the MacNamara family.

M. J. BRADY, the Oakley Country Club professional, has received his discharge from the Navy and on January 20 arrived back in Boston, planning to stop for a short time and then go south for the various tournaments now coming along. Brady was stationed at San Francisco and managed to get in considerable golf, both in Red Cross matches and other competitions. He and John Black had the keenest of competition, but in the placing of the amateurs and professionals for the season's play, Brady was given No. 1 position and Black second. The last two rounds Brady played before coming east were two of his best, for on the two-year old San Francisco Golf Club Course, measuring 6400 yards, he was 71 for each round, setting a new 36-hole record. He previously had placed the single round at 68. The outstanding feature of his final day's play, however was that at the seventh hole, in the final round, he scored a one. The hole measures 190 yards. Brady has a most uncanny habit of turning this little trick, or of doing 2s in par 4 and par 5 holes. He now has scored a hole-in-one no fewer than seven times. Three of these were at the Commonwealth Country Club; two at Siasconset, Mass., both the same day; one at Wollaston when he was professional there and now his latest at San Francisco. Genial Michael could command the largest salary ever paid a golf professional if he could find some way of imparting to his pupils the ability to do what he has done along this same line.

BOSTON GOLFERS are appreciative of the wonderful contrast between the weather now and a year ago. For

several days, inclusive of the day of this writing, atmospheric conditions hardly could have been better for play. On Sunday, Jan. 19, there were about thirty golfers enjoying themselves immensely at the Wollaston Golf Club, and about a hundred others kicked themselves mentally when they heard from the thirty about the splendid conditions prevailing. Wollaston held an open tournament on Christmas Day and while only a dozen took part, they were well rewarded. Many others planned to take part but

did not because there was heavy rain the previous day and they thought the course would be more or less of a quagmire. The actual situation was that the turf was almost as good as in mid-summer and the regular greens used for that one day, were in prime shape. Many of the golfers of the district have gone South, or are going, but the stay-at-homes will be well mollified if the mildness of mid-January extends throughout the winter.



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