

AMERICA'S CHANCES ABROAD

By FRANCIS OUIMET

JUST who is to represent America in the coming British Championships is not known for a certainty as yet, but without any doubt Jerome Travers and myself will be seen bending every effort toward winning the British Amateur event. It will have to be a bitter fight and no one knows any more than Jerome Travers or myself that in order to win it will be quite necessary to be going at a fast clip in every match.

The Amateur Championship will be played at Sandwich and I am told that it is a fine test of a golfer's skill. I also understand that the soil is sandy, being near the ocean, while a strong wind generally prevails. Anything else about the course I will have to picture in my mind, such as long "carries," "sand - pits," "rough," to penalize wide shots, and huge undulating greens. Then when I arrive at Sandwich I shall be able to judge for myself the various holes and the best way to play them.

It is barely possible that Fred Herreshoff and Heine Schmidt may decide to make the trip, and also P. W. Whittemore.

With these three, and Arthur G. Lockwood, who will go, America would have a strong representation, though surely not its best. At any rate numbers would help a great deal in a case like this and the stronger the forces the better golf may be expected.

Now in regard to America's chances, I will say this: "America has a chance." I have been told by some that the conditions are much harder on the other side than they are here. Perhaps they are, but isn't it going "to be just as hard for those competing for Great Britain as it will be for other competitors? You may argue that it will be more difficult for the invaders, on the ground that the severe conditions will be a terrible obstacle to overcome. We will have to play whether the conditions are the best

or the worst, and we will also have to equip ourselves with the shots necessary. Do not think that I expect to go to England and overcome these difficulties by simply playing in the rain or wind. Not at all. On the other hand, I believe that it is possible to do so, but it will take a lot of hard practice.

To my mind, at any rate, the United States will be represented by its very best golfer, Jerome Travers. He is one who has nerve, with no limit, and besides has a variety of shots which he, and he alone, can play.

Within the last year or so his driving has been more or less unsatisfactory, but it is hard to make me believe he cannot drive, and drive well.

A man who plays the fine game that he does, can and will get it going again. There is no reason why he cannot. In regard to a new putter, I feel just as confident that Travers will adapt himself to it. True, he may not like the change, for that Schenectady of his was certainly most deadly when he was playing his game. All in all, I am sure that Jerome Travers will be a stumbling block to those aspirants for the title that cross



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Mr. Francis Ouimet, Open Champion bidding goodbye to Eddie Lawry, his caddie throughout the Open Championship at Brookline

his path. In fact it would not surprise me at all if he captured the Championship.

Fred Herreshoff is another whose golf is mighty hard to beat. Should he undertake the trip abroad he will be a match for the best on the other side, and if he hits his stride quickly he will be apt to have a few victories to his credit.

Heine Schmidt, who made such a remarkable showing last year, will have to be reckoned with. Having played with him quite often has shown me that Heine is a hard worker, working for every shot and making each stroke count. I do hope he will be a contestant.

Then there is Whittemore, who despite his style, which is all his own, can play rattling good golf.

GOLF ILLUSTRATED



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Mr. Francis Ouimet and Mr. A. G. Lockwood (standing to the right) on board the *Laplant*, surrounded by friends just previous to sailing for England

He needs to take the game a little more seriously and get rid of that carelessness which is so conspicuous in his game. He plays the game, though, for the love of it, rather than to attain any personal glory, but I think he would settle down in case he decides to be a competitor in the British Championships.

Arthur Lockwood needs no introduction, for he can play a good game of golf. Lack of practice has been his downfall in recent years and with plenty of that this spring he ought to be able to raise his game to

its former high standard and again become prominent.

One thing is certain, whoever wins the title, whether an American or a British player, he will have earned it richly. Bear in mind another thing and that is the United States representatives will fight to the last ditch in order to bring back to America a trophy which has not seen these shores since Walter J. Travis' successful quest ten years ago. Rest assured that we will do our very best. It will be a hard task, but America has a chance to win.