



WINTER TIME IS TOURNAMENT TIME AT RADIUM SPRINGS

The golf course of the Radium Springs Club near Albany, Georgia, is the newest gathering place for the wandering golfer. The course is a fine one of 6,533 yards

Building a Course in Mexico

By P. C. PULVER

GOLF architects and construction men are often faced with problems more or less perplexing, but the writer wonders if there ever was the counterpart here in the states or throughout the British Isles, of the task with which John Bredemus found himself confronted some months ago. To be sure, golf is no stranger to that region below the Rio Grande, having been played there as far back as thirty years ago—but when the Mexico City Country Club last season decided upon a new layout it little dreamed of the hazards that had to be crossed and it was fortunate that Bredemus was sent for.

Any ordinary course architect after walking in and viewing the situation would have turned around and started north without unnecessary delay; but Bredemus is not an ordinary architect. Those who knew him in the old days in New York need hardly be reminded that he always finished anything he started. Upon making a thorough investigation after his arrival, he discovered that much of the machinery such as plows and tractors, regarded as indispensable to golf course construction work, was not to be had.

Under the circumstances what was to be done? Bredemus was told that there was an almost unlimited supply of peons at his command, so with these he undertook the task that seemed to border upon the impossible. Eighteen new greens were wanted and the soil needed for their composition had to be brought from a considerable distance. There was no rolling stock available, but the peons were. They were promptly pressed into service. At one time 518 of these men were engaged in carrying the soil necessary in the construction of those greens.

More than 20,000 yards of dirt was transferred, all carried in baskets on the backs of these 500 odd peons. In addition to the greens two tees were built for every hole, while throughout the course fifty-five bunkers were constructed. The dirt had to be dug by bare-footed workmen who were equipped with sharp spades, and they toiled eight hours a day, receiving one peso and a half a day, equal to sixty-eight cents. The loaded baskets, weighing from 125 to 150 pounds, were cheerfully shouldered by the peons, who when speed was demanded thought nothing of moving along at a run. So steadily and rapidly did the work progress that the entire job was completed in five weeks.

They like their golf in Mexico, have been playing it in fact since the game was comparatively new on this side of the Atlantic. Dave Honeyman, the professional, was down there in the early days, and a few years afterward he was succeeded by the late Will Smith, winner of the U. S. G. A. Open championship at Baltimore in 1899. Competitions in Mexico are becoming more popular and for the last two years Open tournaments with outside talent, have been held.

Although of a more or less phlegmatic nature Bredemus almost waxed enthusiastic over the climate, particularly that found in the vicinity of the Mexico City Country Club. The altitude is 7,500 feet above sea level, which means that it is always cool even in summer. Every afternoon the temperature starts to go down, so that by evening overcoats are comfortable. The atmosphere is so rare that the snow-covered mountains, Popocatepetal and Estaciawadle, many miles away, can be clearly seen.



RECONSTRUCTING THE MEXICO CITY COUNTRY CLUB'S COURSE IN FIVE WEEKS' TIME

With none of the essential machinery available Bredemus, the architect, pressed 500 peons into service—barefooted workmen who toiled eight hours a day carrying baskets of dirt on their backs. Eighteen new greens were built, two tees for every hole and fifty-five new bunkers