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TRAVIS AT SANDWICH

Walter J. Travis, who was found so "silent" by Edward J. Blackwell in the final match for the British amateur championship in 1904, in a recent contribution to Golf Illustrated, shows that not much was lost on him during that memorable week at Sandwich.

Intense public interest in an international sporting event—whether in yachting, track sports, polo, rowing, tennis, lawn tennis or golf—makes those who take part in it careful what they say; but with their more frequent occurrence the chance for misunderstanding becomes reduced in proportion to the better acquaintance of those who compete, and the familiarity of the press and the people with the real view of sport taken in the countries interested.

The famous "You're another" of James Russell Lowell is particularly applicable to international sports, for the good things and the things to be deplored are met with on both sides of the Atlantic.

WHEN FEELING RUNS HIGH.

As an illustration, Travis in his article, which is quite free from criticism of the environment in which he played his matches at Sandwich, does refer to an incident which followed his missing of a short putt in his final match. He writes: "Some day I hope I may entirely forget all recollection of the slight cheering which greeted the failure."

To applaud the missing of a putt or a bad stroke in golf by a competitor because it gives the hole to his opponent, of course, is execrable taste on the part of anybody following the game, however interested he may be in the outcome of the match. But such things will occur, and they have happened during important matches on both sides of the water, though promptly suppressed by sportsmen following the play.

In the final of the amateur championship of Great Britain at St. Andrews in 1901, John L. Low, a Scotsman, was making a grand uphill fight with Harold H. Hilton. The crowd wanted Low to win, and in one instance a follower of the match shouted just as Hilton was putting and caused him to fail to run the ball down. Moreover, after Hilton had won, J. L. Low met with the greater applause, and the Scotsmen seemed very sore at the defeat of their favorite.

In this country some years ago when the feeling between the east and west was running high a critical match at Atlantic City brought out the same kind of thing from the gallery. Any mistake made by the eastern player was applauded until the officials of the United States golf association put a stop to such demonstrations.

In one of the United States women's championships a group of women followed a match and amused themselves by concentrating their minds on the player they wished to lose with the intention by mental telepathy of making her miss her putts. The player did miss a number of short ones, but won her match, so that the hypnotists were routed. Whether

they really affected the player is a question by itself.

TRAVIS' MATCH WITH ROBB.

Travis, in his article, tells the facts, for the first time, of an incident in his match with James Robb when the latter, as stated in a London paper at the time, "chivalrously passed over a mistake of his opponent's caddy in picking up the ball as it lay dead from Travis' third shot." Travis writes:

"Perhaps the closest match I ever had was with Mr. Reade, who had me 2 down with 4 to play. (Travis won by 2 up, so won the last four holes.) The tussle with Mr. Robb was also very close. On the 11th green an incident occurred which called forth some subsequent comment, arising from a misapprehension of the facts of the case.

"I had laid my approach putt dead. My caddy was holding the flag, and being an Englishman—and being one of the poorest caddies I have ever had, by the way—and Mr. Robb being a Scotchman, he did not understand the latter's request to take the flagstick out, Mr. Robb being away at the edge of the green, but understood it as a request to pick up my ball, which, to my indignant astonishment, he was in the act of doing when I burst in with 'What the devil are you doing?' Whereupon the ball was instantly replaced and the incident was closed so far as Mr. Robb and I were concerned. I know I lost the next hole however.

The caddies seemed to have been very bad at Sandwich, for Mr. Blackwell complains of his. Mr. Robb could have claimed the hole, however, but that does not mean he would have won the match. Travis lost the next hole owing to being upset by the incident, but won the match by 1 up. If Mr. Robb had claimed the hole, Travis would doubtless have been spurred to win the next hole, which he lost, for he is that kind of a golfer. Nevertheless, it is useless to speculate on what would have been the outcome of the match if Robb had claimed the 11th hole.

KINDLY INTEREST IN TRAVIS.

The reminiscent part of Travis' article has interest outside of his remarks on the actual play at Sandwich. Harry Vardon and J. H. Taylor, both of whom played in this country, took the keenest interest in his game, and so did James Braid and Ben Sayers.

It is well to state here that Americans who take golfing trips through Great Britain always speak highly of the courtesies extended to them by secretaries of golf clubs. At the dinner of the Massachusetts golf association M. Herbert Jaques, of the Country club, gave an account of a trip which the golfers across the sea had made very enjoyable for his party. Similar testimony has been given of their experiences by such well-known golfers as Eben M. Byers, F. Oden Horstmann, Devereaux Emmet and H. Chandler Egan, and the rank and file of American players receive the same treatment. Travis writes: