

GOLF VIEWPOINT YEARS AGO

Contrasted With the Present. Players
Were Then Scorned

Now Practically All Men of Affairs
Are Seen on Links—Seniors'
Tournament an Example

Not long ago in a page advertisement in one of the magazines exploiting a book which promised to give the possibility of the low-salaried clerk reaching the position and salary of a manager in the business, there was a picture of the employee at the desk and just outside of his window was the manager about to drive off in his high-powered, motor car, with a bag of golf clubs on his arm.

This change of view almost indicates a revolutionary spirit. Not more than fifteen or twenty years ago in conservative communities the very thought that a man was interested in golf was regarded as something of a drawback, and a man high in financial circles would have been looked upon with astonishment if he had been seen going from his office with a bag of golf clubs. Today, President Wilson, when some momentous question faces him, goes to the golf course to acquire that poise which he realizes is the basis of reaching sane conclusions. Even these days there are many professional men who are more or less in doubt as to what their attitude toward golf should be. One of these may have been induced for the sake of his health to take up the game of golf. Say he has been playing two or three years on Saturdays and Sundays and perhaps in his summer vacation. Then he hears about people, men of affairs, whom he meets now and then, actually taking time off in the winter to play golf. Perhaps his wife urges him to do likewise, and finally overcoming his scruples, he takes the plunge and decides to go South for a couple of weeks when snow and ice have tied up the Northern golf courses.

He has practically the same sensation, as he starts off, as a schoolboy playing truant. He feels that same spice of wickedness creeping over him, but the die is cast and he is going to see it through, though he wonders how his business is going to get on without him. On the train he is more or less worried with fear that he is likely to be lonely, that he may not find anyone to play with; but before reaching the Southern resort he has seen other bags of golf clubs, and that leads him to think possibly he may be successful in his quest for a partner.

When he arrives at his hotel he is dumbfounded at the number of people there, and thinks it may be a convention of some kind. But his eyes are opened the next day, when he finds the golf links is so filled up from eight o'clock in the morning un-

til six at night that he must actually post his time the day before. Then he reaches the conclusion that the whole of business men must be playing truant and he wonders if any people are left in the North at all.

And just what does all this portend? It means that golf has come to fill a place, and that this panacea for mental ills must be preserved for us in these days of strife that try men's nerves to the utmost. Our forefathers lived an out of doors life. They earned their bread by the sweat of their brow, and the rough and ready outdoor existence contributed to hardy physique. Between fighting the Indians and breaking in their land, building houses to live in, and generally combating the wilderness, they developed a sturdy physical strength.

Men nowadays have paid too high a price and have travelled at too rapid a pace to withstand the sapping effect of indoor life, rich food, late hours, and especially the mental tension of over-prolonged mental effort. Nothing ever came at a more opportune moment to the American people than this good old Scotch game of golf. It began as the pastime of a limited leisure class in this country. It was a fad, laughed at, ridiculed by the sturdy athlete, jokes of all kinds directed at it, and yet it survived, and in the last decade has added steadily to its converts, until it now counts among its followers a large proportion of the middle-aged men of affairs throughout the country.

It has not taken, and quite properly may not take the place of the more violent contests of youth, although it now occupies a prominent place among college athletes, but it has been the life saver of the men over forty, and it has enabled thousands of men who had begun to worry, as nature notified them that their health was at stake, to find a specific which no doctor or drug could furnish.

A few years ago an original contention was offered by an opponent of golf. This was that the game was really preventing the growth and expansion of the business of the community, because its life-giving qualities were keeping old men in the harness by rendering their health good, and thus preventing the younger generation from coming into control.

This man contended that the weakness of the proposition was not that the old men were not, thanks to the game of golf, physically fit and strong enough to stand the work, but that they ought, by the rules of nature, to have become incapacitated physically, confined to bath chairs, and dragging out a careful, unexciting existence for the rest of their lives, thus giving the ambition of youth opportunity for development. Any one who saw the three hundred-odd veterans at the annual reunion of the Seniors' Golf Association at Apawamis last week will testify to the truth of the fact that the links game was responsible, as least in part, for the vigor of these "youngsters" from fifty-five to eighty years of age.

—N. Y. Evening Post.

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