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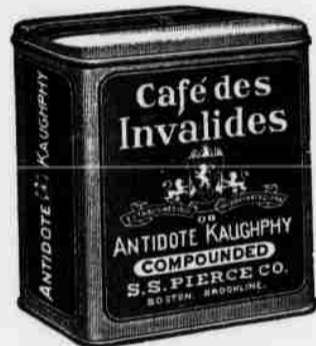
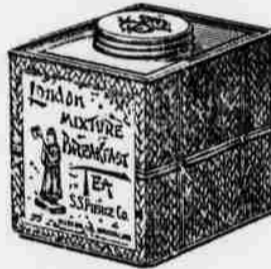


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THOSE NEW GOLF RULES

(Continued from page 1.)

THROUGH THE GREEN—Priority on the course is now a rule; in the old rules it was included in etiquette.

It is new (4) to have the line of play indicated.

Ball when dropped to be dropped over shoulder (8); old requirement (15) was to drop from behind head while facing the hole.

Ball may be lifted for identification (9-1); former penalty loss of the hole.

Ball in hazard (9-2) moved by opponent's ball may be dropped; nothing about this possibility in old rules.

Except at tee (15) no preliminary swing is allowed, as nothing can be moved, bent or broken before striking at the ball. Old rule (11) nothing "near ball" moved, bent or broken.

Playing opponent's ball (20) through wrong information, drop a ball. Old style (20) rectified by placing a ball.

Sand may be removed (22) to see top of ball, and if ball is touched in so doing there is no penalty. Old code (31) ball in sand, the "sand shall not be touched"; penalty, two strokes or loss of hole.

No penalty (22) for touching or moving opponent's ball if looking for it in grass, etc. Backward view, rule 23, penalty, loss of hole.

Tee a ball when a ball is played out of bounds from tee. Ancient custom (32) drop a ball on tee or elsewhere.

An enforced five minutes before deciding a ball is out of bounds (a sub-rule) and before playing, a player has the right to ascertain if his opponent's ball is out of bounds.

When a ball is unfit for play (24) drop a ball where any piece lies. Old (34) drop a ball "where largest portion lies."

If in a running stream or pond, player must not wait (26) until current or wind "better position of the ball." Utterly new ruling.

ABOUT PUTTING—Ball on putting green (27) in or behind casual water, may be placed two club lengths behind or to one side of the water. Old maxim "may be placed behind the water."

Line of putt (28) to be "scraped aside with club only." This stops (18) "brushing lightly with the hand only across the putt."

Drastic and original are these new rules: "A player may (29) have his own caddie stand at the hole" and also either player "may refuse to allow a person who is not engaged in the match to stand at the hole."

To play on the putting green (30) before opponent's ball is at rest incurs the loss of the hole. The penalty formerly was one stroke.

Ball on lip of cup—after opponent has holed out—must be played in ordinary time necessary to make the stroke. New.

Claim on any point must be made before striking off from next tee or leaving last green.

"Some of the changes are very good, but I object to several for the reason they open the door to improving the lie of the ball, consciously or unconsciously," criticised the Westerner.

"To drop the ball over the shoulder will bring gymnastics into the game so as to drop in the best place. Two more of the same kidney are those to remove sand to see top of ball and the right to lift for identification. Who, no matter how carefully he replaces a ball, will give himself a bad lie? That this lifting may be only with the opponent's consent does not change matters, for such permissions are always granted. It is possible under this identification clause that two unscrupulous players—such combinations have been heard of at tournaments—might lift a ball whenever it is profitable to do so."

"All your points are well taken," the Shinnecock Indian added, "for anything that gives an opportunity to those foes of honest golfers, the conniving mug hunters, is bad law."

"On the other hand, it is a wise rule not to penalize a player who moves or touches an opponent's ball when looking

for it in long grass," the Westerner continued. "A ball in long grass is usually found by stepping on it, to the discomfort of the player until the framing of this new rule. Also very wise is the permission to place aside from casual water on the putting green."

"The last seems good," was the retort.

"Yet, as in lifting for identification, there is always danger in permitting the moving of a ball in play. It is sometimes hard to define what is casual water. Often there may be only a cupful, yet in the line of the putt and therefore to be condemned even though the opponent protests. A player who has a difficult downhill putt to negotiate may almost be excused if he magnifies dew drops into a pool, so that by moving two club lengths he may gain a nice uphill putt. His opponent again protest and I foresee many arguments over this matter."

"In the true spirit of the game are the special recommendations for match play," continued the Wheaton chap. "To compel the playing of stinies, to forbid the waiving of a penalty incurred by an opponent, to forbid the exclusion of any regular or local rule and to recommend that putts be not conceded are all factors to better the game."

"Now let me read a comparison of the new and old rules for stroke or medal play competition."

The Shinnecock Hills golfer then read this summary:

Outside limits of teeing grounds (7) tee another ball and play second stroke. Old penalty disqualification.

Playing two successive strokes with wrong ball (8), disqualification. Formerly if mistake was discovered before driving from next tee the player went back and played his own ball without penalty.

But if wrong ball is played out of hazard (8) and it is discovered before a stroke is played with the wrong ball outside limits of hazard, no penalty if player then plays his own ball. New.

A player may lift his ball (11) for identification in the presence of his opponent. Former penalty two strokes.

Ball cannot be considered lost (12) until a search of five minutes has been made for it. Formerly "lost if it be not found within five minutes after search for it is begun."

Must search for ball (13) if there is a question about its being out of bounds and a second ball has been played. Penalty disqualification and rule wholly new.

Within twenty yards of hole, striking flag stick, etc., penalty of two strokes instead of one.

"Well," cried one, "a good thing in the etiquette code is that three or four ball matches may be passed whether holding place on the course or not."

AND THIS IS WHAT THEY SAID.

"Now the point's just here," began the spokesman, helping himself to an editorial cigar and lighting it regardless of consequences, "this only tells half the story part of the time, and in others, its positively misleading."

"Already players here are trotting over the course with the clipping in their hands, and we insist that you straighten matters out."

"Take, for instance, the first crack out of the box which is dead wrong:

"Priority on the course is now a rule; in the old rules it was included in etiquette."

"This has always been a rule, see definition A."

"Paragraph number two is also wrong:

"It is new (4) to have the line of play indicated."