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The Dixie Pilgrims

BY E. ELLSWORTH GILES

TWO hundred and forty-one golfers from the northern part of these United States comprising the personnel of the Dixie Pilgrimage, the itinerary of which was arranged by the Golfers' Magazine, of Chicago, motored into Pinehurst from Fayetteville, Thursday morning, March 11, and took to the links at once. The Dixie Pilgrimage appears to have been the outcome of the trial trip which was run from Chicago to the Pacific Northwest last summer, with much success.

Chick Evans, former open and amateur national champion, and globe trotter extraordinary, was the big noise of the party in a golfing way, as he was in the initial pilgrimage and will be in the trips to follow, the next being to the shrine of golf, old St. Andrews-by-the-sea next summer. The Pilgrims entrained at Fayetteville and started for White Sulphur Springs where they will have a day of golf and then on to French Lick Springs and home.

Evans' presence here served to remind the golfers who follow the fortunes of the competitive golfer that Chick has announced through the press columns of the country that he will go abroad and play in the British Amateur cham-

pionship, notwithstanding the fact that he has been left off the American Walker Cup team. The dropping of the Chicago golfer, who has, all things considered, perhaps the greatest record in the history of American golf, started a lot of comment among the close followers of the game all over the country. Evans, like Bob Gardner, captain of the International team, is right in his golfing prime, at an age when Harry Vardon, the incomparable professional stylist, achieved his greatest success and fame. And like Bobby Jones, Chick took up the game as a boy and while a veteran of the links, he is a very young man of the world. With a style which has been admired and copied, in these many years, Evans has the technic to go on to other golfing heights. The season of 1925 found him dropping below the level of his high standard on some occasions, particularly at Oakmont in the qualifying round for the National Amateur Championship where he failed to qualify for the first time since 1909. This was at the Chicago Golf Club when he tied with Gardner and Tom Sherman, son of former Vice-President Sherman, for the low qualifying score at 151.

Evans was not the only star golfer and former champion to fail to qualify in the Championship sixteen at Oakmont.



Stuart H. Patterson, of Plainfield, N. J., had a double reason for the delight he found in presenting the trophy to Joseph P. Hotchkiss. Hotchkiss was the Medalist as well as the winner of the tournament. With them is T. Russell Brown, the runner-up.

Photo by Hemmer, Pinehurst