

SQUIRRELS FOND OF GOLF BALLS

So Canadian Golfer Would Train Creatures to Bring Balls Home and Pay Them Five Cents a Ball.

By FAIR-PLAY.
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New York, Feb. 7.—George MacDonald, the eminent Canadian golfer, has a project in mind which would be to the advantage of all golf clubs. But before you learn what this project is, you must first consider the two incidents which came under his observation in 1923 and gave rise to the big idea. Well:

Mrs. Archie McLean of Lachine, who was playing a course in Montreal, noticed a squirrel scampering off to the woods with a golf ball. She chased the squirrel to its nest. It was some job, but being dressed properly for running, she achieved it. Looking into a hole in the tree in which Mr. Squirrel had apartments, she found 68 golf balls.

While the golf balls were being removed, the squirrel, sitting on his haunches on a limb above the despoilers of his treasure, told them what he thought of them in language that might have brought a reproof from the lady of the house had she not been down to the nearest neighbor's playing squirrel mah jong.

The lady who took away the golf balls paid for them in part by leaving a bag of nuts in their place.

Incident No. 2.
Mr. Arnold W. Ducloux, K. C., of the Exchequer Court of Ottawa, while playing a short hole between trees on the Rivermead Course at Ottawa, struck a branch with the ball he drove. The ball fell to the ground and thereupon a squirrel, which was in the tree and which thought the ball had been aimed at him, ran down, seized the ball and scampered with it to his home, notwithstanding the gouty efforts of some highly indignant golfers to catch him. It was debated whether the ball should be considered as a lost ball or whether another ball might be dropped without penalty.

The decision in that case was reached only after a lengthy argument. As the ball was worth a dollar, the question arose whether the club should pay the price of the ball to the golfer because of lack of police protection against squirrels. It was finally agreed that as both nuts and bugs played golf the club should not be asked to increase its risk further because squirrels stole the balls.

Now for Mr. MacDonald's inspiration. He suggests that properly trained squirrels for every golf course will go a long way toward solving the lost ball problem which is so vexing to golfers.

Some men can play golf and never lose a ball, while some can't play without losing a box in one way or another. The one drawback to universal golf has been the fact of lost balls. The chap who is just about able to pay his club dues, his tobacco bills and his bills for incidentals, does not feel that he can purchase a box of golf balls every week and keep up his contributions to the church at the same time.

Mr. MacDonald thinks all this can be happily averted by putting say from three or four properly trained squirrels on every golf course with instructions to run down all lost balls and take them to palatial nests which will be established by the clubs.

Each squirrel could easily save from \$500 up annually for the members and the cost of keeping the squirrels would be almost negligible, with so many nuts in the neighborhood as are likely to be found around any golf course.

Very likely the churches of which golf club members are also members would be very glad to help maintain the squirrels on a fifty-fifty basis.

All balls would be initiated by the owners and each owner would willingly give a dime for the recovery of a lost ball. Of this amount five cents would go to the church subscription plate and five cents to the squirrel fund.

If in the course of time the squirrel fund grew large enough, it would be an easy matter to give a squirrel ball at the club house, and thus both entertainment for the golf club, and loyal support for the church would be brought about by the proper teaching of these little animals which have too often been made into pie against their own inclination.

Can Ermino Spalla keep out of Firpo's way and at the same time pepper him with gloves? Some Jersey men who were close to the Italian when he was staying in Newark profess to think so. They say

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that Ermino is much cleverer than Firpo right now, and that he has a better chance of diminishing the Argentine's lustre than most of the sharps think.

There is talk that certain big men in the game are already prepared to build on Spalla if he lives up to their hope and gives the wild bull a boxing lesson.

Carpentier demanded \$75,000 as his price for meeting Mike McTigue. Jersey promoters who asked for and received this valuable information are still gasping. Yet on the other hand Carpentier is still a big drawing card in the country and none are cleverer than his cute Manager, Descamps. Rickard might arrange to pay Carpentier this price. But not for a bout with a man such as Mike McTigue. No sub.

Marston Describes Real Golf Swing

Says Game Depends on Theory That There Are Four Distinct Stages

By WALTER CAMP
Copyright, 1924, by The Advance
New York, February 7.—Max Marston, the amateur golf champion has come out with a description of his swing in which he says that his game depends upon the theory that there are four elements, or distinct stages to the golf swing.

The first is to keep the left arm straight from the beginning, as far back as it will go. If Marston will study pictures of some of the star British players of two or three decades ago, he will be astonished to see how far back and up the left arm can be kept straight. These photographs demonstrated, when the writer was putting forward the theory of the straight left arm, that it can be practically locked to an astonishing height, and this straight left arm is a common feature of nearly all high-class players.

The second move Marston describes as bending the elbows with a break at the wrist, at the top of a back swing. The writer is inclined to think the average player would do better without this second move.

The third is straightening the left arm again on the down swing.

The fourth is the follow through, in which Marston describes the left arm as breaking just before the finish of the follow through. Well, as a matter of fact, it does not make much difference at that point what the elbow or the club head does, except as that moment is the necessary result of the earlier part of the swing.

The report from England that the victory of the noted golf writer

Bernard Darwin, in the tournament of the Oxford-Cambridge Golfing Society was a popular one, will be seconded most heartily over here. Darwin is one of the most pleasing and satisfactory of all golfing scribes, and more than that, his game is an admirable one, full of pluck and tenacity. His approaches are things of joy and beauty to all his opponents. Incidentally, he defeated a field of good men, including Cyril Tolley.

On the highly timely subject of a lighter golf ball, one professional writes: "The ball is making a monkey of the golf course. Holes measuring say 440 to 480 yards today are no longer real two-shooters."

This is commended to the consideration of the 95 percent of golfers scattered all over the country, who are hardly likely to be worried when they stand on the tee of a 480-yard hole lest they drive so far that they will have to restrain their second shot for fear of going over the green. The question comes right back to the old one of whether we are making our golf courses and our balls for men who have to use mid-irons or mashies for their second shots to 480-yard holes.

Despite the controversy that is going on between French and American physicians on the question of the responsibility of scanty apparel for influenza among women, the Vassar girls, during the recent cold snap, appeared in knickerbockers and bare knees, and evidently thrived on it.

HOW THE OLDTIMERS WOULD BE AMAZED

By WALTER CAMP
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New York Feb. 7.—What would

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the rowing men of "Foxy" Bancroft's day at Harvard and "Bob" Cook's day at Yale say if they could read the news that Ed Stevens of Cornell, later coach of the Portland Boat Club of the Pacific Coast, will coach Harvard's crew next season assisted by Sam Shaw, Captain and No. six of the Washington crew which won at Poughkeepsie last year!

And what would they say if they read on the same day that Yale will have as her rowing tutor none other than Ed Leader, former oarsman and coach of the Washington crew, with George Murphy, stroke of the 1922 crew of Washington, as his assistant?

How, on the other hand would old Hiram Conibear chuckle if he were alive to see his University of Washington stars moved to the effete Eastern seaboard to teach Har-

vard and Yale how to row! Columbia, too, has made a shift and let Jim Rice go, replacing him with Fred Miller.

Rice may get some vicarious satisfaction if Penn defeats the Blue and White, for he has been taken on as assistant to Wright at Pennsylvania. Truly, the rowing world is in a state of flux.

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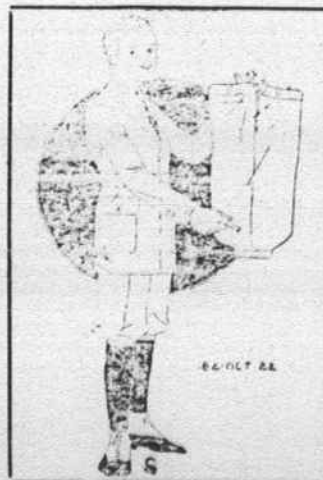
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