



NEW ENGLAND DEPARTMENT

By "BUNKER HILL"



*New England is
buried in ice and
cold weather;
The district has
given up golf al-
together.*

*Its clubs cannot
burn any coal;
as for wood,
The fuel officials
say none of them
should*

*Unless they will give up the club for the axe
And off to the woods put their lustiest
whacks*

*In felling the trees to replenish the fire
And help to relieve the coal shortage, so
dire.*

*The optimist dwells on the changes of
season,
And this is the way that he's trying to
reason:*

*The winter came early and likewise severe,
So why not believe that the springtime is
near?*

*With sunshine and rain to replenish the
grasses
And bring back the pleasure of golf to the
masses.*

*No basis, perhaps, for this cheerful con-
clusion,
But cheerful it is till a proven delusion.*

OUR FOREFATHERS forsook the plough for the sword and the rifle, so after all there is nothing incongruous, and surely nothing half so blood-thirsty, in the request made by the New England fuel administrator that the golfers of the district bend their energies, temporarily, to wood cutting and help relieve the situation brought about by the shortage of coal. The Massachusetts Golf Association is the first Association of its kind, so far as known, which as an Association has

in any way identified with what is known in Massachusetts as the "cut-a-cord" movement. Some time ago Fuel Administrator Garfield, in Washington, issued his request that all golf clubs close their doors until April and few in New England have failed to comply with that order literally; some of those which have not absolutely closed down, have reduced their consumption of coal to an absolute minimum. Furtherance of Administrator Garfield's wishes was simplified by the weather in New England, which has been such for weeks that golf playing out of doors has been practically impossible. One or two of the clubs in New England which cater to winter sports on a large scale, and which also are more or less "home" for a number of their members, are the only ones which continue their activities.

THE "cut-a-cord" movement above referred to is a plan of Fuel Administrator Storrow of the New England district, through which it is planned to organize parties of men to go into the woods and cut down trees to be converted into firewood. Mr. W. D. Clark of the administrator's office, has direct charge of that branch of the work and as he believed the golfers of Massachusetts could do much toward making a success of the movement, he broached the plan to Mr. Henry H. Wilder, president of the Massachusetts Golf Association, prior to the annual meeting of that organization, which was held Jan. 18 in the Exchange Club,

Boston. Mr. Clark was invited to attend that meeting and explain the movement, which he did, urging upon the delegates present the necessity of increasing the supply of fuel by some other means than through receipts of coal and requesting that the golfers do their share toward the success of the movement. President Wilder, re-elected to that office in the M. G. A., strongly supported the project and promised the fuel administrator's representative all the assistance within his power.

New England golfers have been bemoaning their golfing inactivities, forced upon them by the rigors of the weather, and regretting the lack of exercise. If they take full advantage of the wood-chopping programme, they will have no reason to complain further of want of exercise. Axe in hand, and in the woods, they may rest assured that the full St. Andrews swing may be tried out with impunity, with every likelihood, however, that the swing will be markedly modified before the embryo woodchopper has been long at work. It would be a rather interesting experiment to put two gangs to work in the same wood lot, one group consisting of golfers and the other comprising men who never have handled a golf club, at the same time equally foreign to the handling of an axe. Would the golfer prove the more effective woodchopper of the two? On general principles it is logical that he would, age and physical vigor being equal. In woodchopping, as in golf, one of the essentials is in hitting at a certain point. The golfer more or less has learned the elementary principle of "keeping his eye on the ball" and this should tend to a more accurate placing of the axe head than would be true of the men backed by no other asset than inherent fac-

ulty of swinging an axe or anything else swingable. The golfer, moreover, might tire less easily than the non-golfer of equal muscular power,—a conclusion reached on psychological grounds. In other words, the golfer could tackle a tree with the thought in mind of keeping count of the number of strokes taken with the axe, mentally comparing it with the number of strokes taken during the course of a round of golf. There is nothing more exhausting of strength than in allowing the mind to dwell upon the arduousness of the labor. The writer once had a striking illustration of this point. A group of men and boys were experimenting on the number of minutes that both arms could be held out horizontal to the shoulders before one or both arms would droop below the horizontal, despite efforts to keep them up. It was found that sixteen minutes was the maximum, even for the men, though the group consisted of men and boys surely average in physical strength and vigor. In the group was a boy of six years and one of the men said: "Percy, do you think you could hold your arms out ten minutes?" "Sure, I could," answered the precocious six-year-old. "I'll give you fifty cents if you do," said the elder. Master Percy put up his arms and held them for the ten minutes. "I'll give you a dollar if you hold them up for another ten minutes," said the elder, before the boy had dropped his arms. Percy held his arms horizontal for another ten minutes and then, to an offer of two dollars, he kept his arms at the horizontal point for three-quarters of an hour. The others present were flabbergasted; no other word fits the case. They could not conceive of such a feat being possible and could reason it out only on the ground that whereas they, in holding their arms up,

had their minds continuously upon the physical effort demanded, the six-year-old boy had his thoughts entirely concentrated upon the reward. He was literally hypnotized with the idea of the "fortune" awaiting him, hence he had no thought for the muscles of his arms. How much longer he might have held his arms suspended is pure guesswork, for it was agreed that it might not be wise to prolong the effort. Five minutes later the boy was around asking if there were any more offers, being none the worse, apparently, for what he had gone through. Very likely nothing like this could happen to a golfer chopping wood; nevertheless all golfers know that tramping eighteen holes while playing golf is far less tiresome than walking the same distance under less alluring circumstances. The same man who tramps six to ten miles hitting a golf ball grows tired over the mere thought of walking half a mile in the course of his daily routine of business.

As a result of his visit to the M. G. A. annual meeting, the fuel administrator's representative discovered that something already had been accomplished in the line of woodchopping by golfers. A delegate from the Concord Country Club of Concord, Mass., Mr. Townsend, related how the members of that club had been granted the privilege of cutting wood on the club's property, up to ten cords each, at \$2 a cord, the members to do their own cutting and hauling. Under that arrangement, 125 cords have been cut this winter, productive not only of healthy exercise, but of no end of sport. Blisters were raised in profusion, but between the exercise, the rivalry in cutting and the general good times at the cutting parties, nobody heeded the little inconveniences. The club benefits from clearing a considerable portion

of its property which will be devoted, eventually, to the layout of nine more holes, so that the club will have an 18-hole course. The Brae-Burn Country Club of West Newton, Mass., has been reducing its timber land for a number of years, but not through the activities of its members, although some of the wood has been sold to them. Upwards of forty cords have been cut and piled this winter.

THE STATE of weather, the dwarfing of golfing interests by the general problems and thoughts of the war and the decision not to have an annual dinner of the Association, following the business meeting, resulted in thin ranks of delegates. Only twelve of the seventy clubs in the Association were represented, with twenty-one delegates on hand. Each club is entitled to two delegates. It was agreed by President Wilder and by such of the delegates who addressed the meeting, that the tournament programme of the Association during the 1917 season had been a failure and that it was desirable to remedy this situation for the coming season, so far as compatible with war conditions. It was the general sentiment that tournaments should be fostered, this being in line with the expressed wish of the military and naval authorities in Washington, as well as of President Wilson. It was equally the sentiment of those present that the time is not propitious for a resumption of championships or of Inter-State or Lesley Cup team matches. Crystallized opinion as to the reason for minimized tournament interest last season was, first, lack of an Association plan which had the complete support of all clubs in the Association, and, secondly, that the idea of parchment for prizes was not a distinct success. It was agreed that

while the rank and file of golfers who participate in open tournaments are not governed in their decision on whether to enter an event by the quality of the prize, at the same time there is no gainsaying that this had something to do with the smallness of the fields. President Wilder suggested that possibly it might be a good thing to offer as prizes medals similar to those which the Association presents in the State championships, to which plan there was some objection, on the ground that a golfer who had won the silver medal of the Association as runner-up in a State amateur championship would rather resent that his next-door golfing neighbor should have a similar medal, differing only in slight fashion, for winning the net prize in an open handicap, perhaps aided by a liberal handicap. It was suggested that an equal sum of money be put in plate; ex-President Harry L. Ayer of the Association, delegate from Brae-Burn, suggested the old-fashioned pewter mug prizes which gave satisfaction years ago in golf. As for the lack of unity between the Association and the clubs last season, which resulted in some events being held under the auspices of the Association and some by the clubs as individuals, President Wilder's new suggestion was that the Association conduct all the open tournaments (except mixed foursomes), as of old, take the net proceeds, to go into a war fund, and provide the prizes. He hoped that the clubs would agree to a plan along this order, details regarding tournaments and prizes to be worked out by the Association Executive Committee, and that all the clubs which desired to run open or invitation tournaments would make early application for dates, as of yore, so that a full schedule for the season

could be issued prior to the beginning of the spring season. That was the way the matter was left. In these columns already has been recorded how the Massachusetts Association donated two ambulances to the Massachusetts State Guard, when it was found that no assurance could be had that ambulances purchased for the American army field service in France would ever get to the other side; \$500 also was donated to the Y. M. C. A. "Red Triangle" fund and a sum still remains sufficient to more than pay for and equip the bodies for the ambulances purchased for the Guard.

That something other than a decrease in the number of active golfers was responsible for the generally small fields in the open tournaments of 1917 was evident from the report of Mr. Daniel Horan, official State handicapper of the Association. He stated that on the lists of the fourteen clubs which have submitted their lists of players for the spring handicaps of 1918 there are 230 new names, thereby increasing the number of men handicapped in the State to 6,000, in round figures. If anything like that proportion of new names holds true of the other fifty-seven clubs (the Bass Rocks Country Club of Gloucester having been proposed for membership at the annual meeting), the State list is going to be far and away the largest in the history of the Association. The State handicapper almost despaired of ever getting out his revised list for 1918 at the slow rate of returns by the other clubs. In respect to handicap changes made during 1917, Mr. Horan noted that eighty players had had their allotment of strokes reduced, while twenty-one had been raised. Taking these figures at their face value, it would appear that the ratio of improvement over deteri-

oration in the ranks of the Massachusetts golfers was just about four to one in 1917, which would be an exceedingly fine showing if it actually held true for the general run of golfers. Analyzed a little more closely, however, and it can be seen how the figures quoted might easily be misleading. It may be taken as almost a matter of course that the golfer who improves his game much more speedily claims the attention of either his club or the State handicapper than the man whose game suffers a slump. The moment a golfer turns in a card distinctly lower than his average, either in club or open tournament play, he is bound to get attention. The very enthusiasm with which he turns in the card in itself brings him to the fore, or else his partner, if he happens to be an intimate, wants everybody in sight to know that "Jim Blank went around in 84, the first time he ever got under 90 in his life." If Jim Blank happens to break 90 again in a short time the first thing he knows he finds himself set down one to three or even four strokes in the club's handicap list, or if he happens to be doing these extra good rounds in the open tournaments, he quickly bumps into the reducing pencil of the State handicapper. Unless "Jim Blank" is one of those unfortunately-constituted mug-hunters—they are unfortunate in the eyes of all who love golf for its own sake—he not only makes no objection to a cut in handicap, but is justly proud of having succeeded in bringing it about. He is spurred on to new efforts by the recognition from an authoritative source that his efforts at improvement have met with some success.

With respect to the man whose handicap is increased, however, the situation is quite different. Here is where

the club or the State handicapper has to be most circumspect in his judgment, from the realization that there are few men who care to admit even to themselves that they are "going back" and they object still more to be told so by anybody else. There always are plenty of excuses for the low handicap man who fails to score up to his recognized standard. He can play a number of poor rounds and have nothing more said of it than that "he was off his game." Again, how often have we heard it said that Mr. Good Player had a sore finger, or a lame wrist, or a sore heel, or a touch of rheumatism or any one of a dozen other things, including the breaking of his favorite driver or that he had not been playing much of late? Still, his severest critic would hesitate to say that the old game was not longer under the good player's control and the handicapper, especially the State handicapper, would no more think of taking such quick and summary action upon reducing the good player's handicap than he would think of putting a 20-man at scratch because he played one round twenty-strokes better than ever before in his life. Such things as that are possible, or performances almost as radical. A member of the Wollaston Golf Club at Montclair, Mass., once made the round in 65 strokes, whereas his customary round is about 85. He had every imaginable break that day. The writer played around one day this past summer with another Wollaston member whose card, in a tournament, was 80, whereas his average performance is 90, in fact his previous best was an 85, and that only once. It generally takes mediocre performances during the best part of a season before a low-handicap golfer has his rating raised to the figure warranted by his up-to-date form. Frequently it is just the

stimulus he needs to strive to get back to his old mark. All the same, it is to be hoped that the figures on handicap alterations submitted by Mr. Horan at the M. G. A. meeting will be even more strikingly borne out by the developments of 1918, when there doubtless will be more open tournaments to give the handicapper a line on his material.

MR. JOHN MORRILL, veteran golfer and old-time baseball star, is one of those who believe in keeping the

to burn coal, for the clubhouse has been destroyed by fire, and the clubhouse of the Dedham Country & Polo Club has suffered the same fate. Both will rebuild as early as possible. The Belmont Club plans for rebuilding already are well formulated and the members in the end will be the gainers through the fire, for the new clubhouse will be much superior to the old and will be attached to the handsome new locker building, therefore vastly more convenient. The Commonwealth Country Club of the same dis-



New home of The Commonwealth Country Club, Chestnut Hill, Mass., the interior of which has not been completed.

golfing muscles "oiled" by occasional exercise with clubs indoors, now that it is impossible to get out on the links. Nearly every day he visits the golf department of the Wright & Ditson store and takes eighteen or twenty practice swings with a driver. "The swing is there, even if the ball isn't," he says, "and it is just as well not to let the muscles forget they are still useful."

Two of the clubs in the Greater Boston District are certain of catering entirely to the fuel administrator's wishes about fuel conservation. The Belmont Spring Country Club has only its locker building left in which

trict has a handsome new clubhouse practically completed, so far as the exterior goes, nevertheless the club is in somewhat of a dilemma, which will be threshed out at the annual meeting. Owing to the increased cost in materials since the new building was planned and certain other contingencies which have arisen since construction began, the new building already has eaten up the original appropriation before anything has been done toward completion of the interior. The club held a special meeting at which various proposals were made, one to postpone completion of the building until a more propitious time; one to

levy an assessment of \$100 apiece on the members, in addition to raising the annual dues from \$65 to \$75 and a counter-proposition to make an assessment of \$50. One of the points of discussion came on the propriety of trying to raise so much additional money under prevailing war conditions. A proposal was made that the second floor of the new building be completed, including locker rooms, showers, etcetera.

*Beware, you Huns, HEROIC men,
Who spare not children nor their
mothers;
Two million Yanks are on their way,
And, if they're needed, millions others;
Within whose ranks are golfers many,
Recruited from all ranks and station,
With SERGEANT Ouimet, infantry,
And Jesse Guilford, aviation,
To set a pace on land, in air,
That means Germanic's dissolution;
To rid the world its awful scourge
Of autocratic Hun pollution.*

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Mr. Ouimet, first a private, then a corporal, now a sergeant attached to the Intelligence Department at Camp Devens and to Mr. Jesse Guilford, the former national champion's great four-ball golfing partner, who is going in for aviation. Conquerors in golf, all fortune to them in their military careers. Mr. Guilford has borne the cognomen of "siege gun" ever since his appearance in the national amateur championship at the Ekwanok Country Club in 1914 and if the Huns could have a good look at him driving

a golf ball they probably would hate to face him if he carried a stout niblick. Speaking of golfers and the war, here is a letter written from "the other side" by Mr. Charles Lanigan, former captain of the Harvard baseball team and enthusiastic golfer, member of the Merrimack Valley Country Club of Lawrence, Mass. It was written to Mr. Joseph Walworth, also a Merrimack member, who has been over and back:

"Dear Joe—Since you recently spent a few months up near the big brawl, you probably have a fairly clear conception of the next 18 to 36 holes I will play. I don't know exactly when the match will come off, but I am playing five on a pretty good team and we ought at the worst to come out even up.

The only trouble in this particular match is that the German contingent knows the course, and have been playing it so often in the last several years that it is considered nothing exceptional for them to hole out in one.

In fact a few of the practice teams we have sent up report that holing out in one is considered by Jock Hohenzollern as a mere practice shot, and that they are very apt to name which section of the cup they'll pitch into.

Now, on this basis, I'm going to fool them by putting in a flock of dummy cups. These Fritz's may know the old Scotch game pretty well, but I don't think they are "hep" to the winter green stuff, so I'm going to put in a flock of winter greens on the course and they'll think we are still playing the regular course and the first thing you know, I'll have them thinking they are holing out in one, when they are really out of bounds.

At that Joe, it's a hard course, full of water hazards, and bunkers, and ditches, and you've got to play the ball where it lays. There is one advantage here though, Grand Army rule 716 allows the use of dynamite, so when in doubt we don't lift and lose two, but just blast."

