

CHICAGO GOLFING CENTER OF WORLD

SO SAYS INVESTIGATOR
And He Proceeds to Prove His Claim, Quoting Fact That There Are 150 Clubs In This Region

Chicago is the golfing center of the world insofar as golf interest is concerned and Chicago could well accommodate over thirty new golf courses and still the crowds would come, according to Professor Leon G. Kranz of Northwestern University. Professor Kranz, who has successfully coached Purple golf teams during the last few years and who produced a champion team last year, has made a careful study of golfing conditions in the United States, with Chicago as the golfing center. He said that a few hours of golf, which generally mean fresh air and sunshine, has become a popular prescription of many of America's best M. D.'s the last few years.

Clubs in United States
 "There are approximately 3,800 golf clubs in the United States," said Professor Kranz. "Considering that 300 is an average membership for each club, we may conservatively estimate that there are about 1,000,000 people playing golf in this country. Chicago has 150 private and public courses within a radius of 50 miles and an estimated 100,000 persons playing the course he chooses, each week. The public courses take care of from 500 to 1,000 players each week-end and we know these are not the same people playing each time, so that this estimate is conservative. Thus Chicago is the playing center for 10 per cent of the golfing population and is rightly called the golfing center. There are 33 public fee courses around Chicago which seems a great many, comparatively speaking. We could add 33 more and still have congestion on all of them."

Beauty Is Factor
 The professor proved the everlasting lure of the links and said that a remarkable situation had been brought about by reason of the average golf course. Beauty of view, he said, means that the land has been greatly improved, and that, in turn, means that realtors will swarm down upon a course which is well located, and make tempting offers for it is a real estate proposition. This being so, the speaker said that from a practical standpoint it seemed money well spent for a club to develop excellent links and to make them attractive.

Regarding the game itself, he claimed it is now the most popular in the nation. It serves as a good excuse to get out in the open. In the old days people would plan picnics in the woods and make a day of it,—now they go to a golf club. Analyzing the game itself, and the causes of the desire to play good golf which seems to develop like a disease in most persons, the Northwestern expert said:

Golf Stories
 "How well I remember driving by the golf courses in the vicinity of Evanston one Sunday morning when my attention was attracted by some wild screaming and mad dashes up and down the fairway. Stopping the car I ran over, thinking that perhaps some one had been struck by a ball and was in need of assistance. On arriving, however, I learned from one of the members of the foursome that the man had not gone crazy, nor had he been struck by a ball; he had just made a 75-yard hole in 'one'. Now, there was a man who had no more conversational worries the rest of his life; he will begin to tell how he did it the very moment conversation lags, on any occasion, and golf stories, like fish stories, have a tendency to become inflated."

TURNS WINE CASKS INTO RESORT HOUSES
Enterprising Purchaser of the Property From Wine Company Alters Them

Forty-one miles west of Cleveland, Ohio, a village is springing up the like of which this country has never seen. Credit for this must be given to Mr. Volstead, though he hasn't a dollar of money invested in it. Yet without him this village would not be possible, for it is made up of immense wine casks which, before Mr. Volstead got busy, were filled to the bung-hole with wine.

For seven years the wealthy wine corporation owning these casks kept them fumigated with sulphur to keep them pure, in the hope that the Volstead law would be amended or repealed. They finally became convinced that wine as a beverage is a thing of the past, and concluded, therefore to sell all their casks. A gentleman of Vermilion, Ohio, bought thirty-six of the casks at a song, and now has most of them altered for summer cottages for tourists and others. He has lived in one of them the past winter and says no house could be more comfortable, says the Nation's Business.

Each of these casks or "vats" holds 6,000 gallons of wine—or did hold it! Each one weighs 7,800 pounds, circumference 14 feet, 6 inches. When

these casks were sent from the factory twenty-one years ago they cost \$1,200; today the same casks would cost \$2,500. The are made of solid oak, the staves being two to three inches thick.

These cask houses are mounted on concrete foundations and placed in rows the same as cottages. There are two windows in the back end and a window and door in the front end. A screened-in porch is built across the front. A bathroom will be fitted up on the ground. The only paint on the casks is at the end of the chimneys, door and window openings to prevent air checks in the white oak. All other parts are covered with linseed oil to preserve the casks from the weather.

INTERESTING FACTS REGARDING ILLINOIS

The original townsite of Streator was known as "Hardscrabble," so named because it was a hard scramble for horses, after fording the Vermilion river, to climb the bank to the site of the community.

The number of passengers carried on the electric railways of the state equals the population of the United States every 21 days.

Chicago's population is increasing at the rate of 154 persons daily.

Gas was first introduced into Chicago in 1850, eleven years before the advent of the Civil war.

There are 73 deserted townsites in Illinois, some of which have flourished and died, while others were laid out but never materialized.

More than 2,000 Confederate soldiers, formerly prisoners, and 50 Union soldiers are buried in a cemetery at Rock Island Arsenal.

The aggregate population of towns and villages in Illinois served by cen-

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