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GOLF SWINGS

By the Brothers, Frank Thompson, present Canadian Amateur champion, and W. J. Thompson, Ontario Amateur champion and last year's champion of Canada. They are native-born and resident Canadians, members of a family of five famous golfing brothers.

Number Three.

All the great golfers have learned the game themselves. Not that they did not have a living example before them to more or less copy. They saw how the strokes were made and unconsciously developed their own peculiar style. And after all this is the common ordinary method employed in all learning. Did Jones have his style built up piece meal by Stewart Maiden his accredited mentor or did he come at his style generally. When Jones started golf it was as an aid to his health and not with any intention of becoming a star. Little attention was paid as to how he made his shots until it became apparent that he had an aptitude for the game. Stewart Maiden, then no doubt was able to make suggestions which helped materially but the swing was his own. And this is as it should be. The pro. who successfully obliterates himself and draws out the players individual style will find the task an absorbing one and by no means a dull procedure.

Learning to swing in parts is not an uncommon spectacle to-day, and yet how contrary is it to the accepted principles of the game. One of the characteristics of good golf is timing. This I take it as axiomatic. Everyone knows when a stroke has been well done because the blow has been timed properly. Now timing consists in nothing more than having all the movements working together at the appropriate moment of impact. Now I ask which is the better method? To start the swing as a unified movement or to build it up bit by bit as is popularly done? If the swing is disjointed when it commences the probability is it will remain the same throughout. On the other hand, if the swing is commenced as a unified one the chances are greater for it remaining so throughout.

Not only is it impossible to learn golf by building the swing brick by brick, so to speak, but it is quite possible to ruin a natural one by persistent attempts to make the shots according to some theory. Whether Chic Evans' slump of the last two years is attributable to this or not, he alone perhaps can tell. It is interesting to note, however, that two years ago the Chicago Press dilated

to a great extent on Chic's method of playing the game. That his swing had changed was apparent to those who knew his style before, and that he spoiled his swing was the opinion of some. In any event he suffered the worst slump last season of his whole career. The Evans star was in the descendant and this can not be attributed to age, for Evans has not reached his prime as yet.

One of the greatest pro's who ever came to Canada confessed the other day that when he played his best golf some years ago, he just did it without knowing it was done. That is the



FRANK THOMPSON
Present title holder and twice Canadian Amateur golf champion.

peculiar thing about golf; it is all done so smoothly that it appears to be all one unified movement. Watch a good player in action and try to detect where the different movements begin and end. The last is impossible to the naked eye so well are the movements blended together. Even at the top of the back swing where the club must start in the opposite direction, and where one would almost admit without consideration, that a break would be noticeable, none is apparent, so perfectly does the back swing blend with the down one. It is more correct to say that the back swing becomes the down swing. There is no break between the two parts of the swing. The transition phase is not apparent, and, indeed, it is perhaps inaccurate to speak of the back swing as distinct from the forward swing. They are only two phases of the one unified movement.

The converse of the foregoing is also true that when one happens to be playing one is consciously trying to influence the swing at some particular point or place. It may be that the right elbow is getting away from the body too far, or the left arm may be breaking and many other things may be happening. We usually attempt to cure the fault of concentrating on this point. Did anyone ever cure a defect this way?

It would appear common sense and good logic to concentrate on the defective point.—But it does not work. The next time you feel yourself slipping away from the ball, or lifting the left foot off the ground at impact, attempt the apparent cure of crowding more weight on the left foot and see what happens. Instead of curing this fault you have only made it worse. In all such cases it is far better to permit the muscles to sense their way rather than to mentally instruct them for, I take it, muscles do not work most effectively in this manner, if at all.

There seems to be a general uniformity in the swing of all the long hitters as revealed by the motion pictures; a general uniformity but not of particulars. The knowledge of this general tendency may or may not help the player to swing better; it should at best, however, protect him against unsound theories of the swing. The fast camera has given us data of the swing at its different points, so that there is very little controversy over its mechanism. But the player, and, unfortunately, the clearest description of it at its best must be only a symbolical representation.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1924 ON LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.

A booklet received last week from the Dominion Dept. of Labour is of particular interest.

The information published in the Fourteenth Annual Report on Labour Organization in Canada, covering the calendar year 1924, which has just been issued by the Department of Labour, shows that the trade union system in the Dominion is made up of four groups as follows: (1) Local branches of international organizations having headquarters in the United States, (2) non-international bodies with headquarters in Canada, (3) independent trade union units, and (4) national and Catholic unions.

The only class of unions to show an increase was that comprising the independent units, the number of which increased by nine, and the reported membership by 1,967. The three remaining classes of local branch unions had decreases as follows: (1) International, 45 branches, and 1,862 members; (2) non-international, 10 branches and 12,554 members; (3) national and Catholic, 12 unions and 5,000 members. These figures show a total loss of 58 in branches and 17,449 in members, the aggregate membership of all classes of trade unions in Canada at the close of 1924 being 260,643, comprised in 2,429 branches.

There are 89 international organizations operating in Canada, five less than the number in 1923, with 2,034 branches, and a combined membership of 201,981, representing approximately 78 per cent. of the total of all classes of organized workers identified with trade union bodies; the number of non-international organizations remain at seventeen and between them they have 268 local branches, comprising a membership of 21,761; independent units number 33, with a combined membership of 11,901, and there are 94 national and Catholic unions comprising a membership of 25,000.

In the list of Trade Union local units the report gives the following for Timmins:—Mine Workers' Union, (Independent), Porcupine.—Norman McKinnon, president; Wm. Killigrew, secretary. Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers No. 145 (International)—Wm. DeFou, secretary. This information evidently is secured from returns made some time ago.

Another table seems to be also slightly out of date. It gives the number of unions existing in Timmins as 2; the number reporting membership as 1, with membership reported at 752.

In reference to May Day, the report says:—"The May Day Programme at Timmins (1924) consisted of a parade from the Porcupine Mine Workers Hall to the near-by camp at Schumacher, headed by the Finnish Workers' Band. At the meeting held subsequently speeches were delivered by Malcolm Bruce, of the Communist Party and a man named Centazzo."

The membership of all classes of organized labour in Canada for 1924 is reported as 260,643, a decrease of 17,449 from 1923.

Apart from the statistics published the report contains much interesting matter in regard to the various labour organizations with which the Canadian organized workers are either directly or indirectly connected, and also gives much general information as to their more important activities. As a directory of labour unions the volume is very complete, giving particulars of every known local trade union in the Dominion, and also lists of central organizations and delegate bodies, together with the names and addresses of the chief executive officers for the year 1925.

Reference is also made in the report to organizations composed of school teachers, commercial travellers, Government employees and other wage-earners, which, though not identified with the organized labour movement, are considered to be of sufficient importance to warrant them being given a place. The associations in this group number 66, the combined reported membership of which is 86,333.

Nothing is gained by argument. If a person is wrong, argument will not make him right. If he is right, he need not argue to prove it. There can be no greater breach of business courtesy than an argument with a patron.

—Exchange.

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