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24B

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 NINE

In golf the important point is to watch the ball and think only of slinging the club head through it. Anything more than this is a hindrance and any less a drawback. All other details are to be considered as aids, subsidiary to this. Anything else must take second place. The correct stance will be decided in this



W. J. THOMPSON

Amateur Golf Champion of the Province of Ontario, and last year champion of the Dominion of Canada.

manner, and must be arranged so that it will aid this desired end. One thinks of making the club head meet the ball in a certain way, and then to make the feet accommodate themselves to this object. One does not worry whether they are open, square, or closed, and the good golfer could hardly tell you how he stands.

The stance is not important as a thing in itself. Numerous golfers are

concerned unduly about having the feet so far apart and at a certain angle, and then making the swing accommodate itself to this. Manifestly this is all wrong. Naturally when one wishes to slice an open stance will be adopted, for it is easier in this position to draw the club across the line of flight. The important point is to hit the ball a glancing blow, and not the position of the feet. The practical golfer of old always had the idea of how the club face was going to meet the ball before him, and in all probability never knew the position of his feet until after the stroke was made. The same is true of pulling. The idea is to circle the ball on the outside so to speak, or reverse the glancing blow of the sliced shot and it is easier to execute this if the closed stance is used.

The expert player can slice or pull with the feet in any position but not nearly so easily and effectively as when the feet occupy the above position.

One should not even worry about keeping the head still. It may well be because of your particular build it is necessary for you to move your head. There are a number of outstanding golfers who do. If the important point of making the hands sail the head through the ball is emphasized, it may be to do this effectively that the head will remain practically fixed. But if this is so it will be, an incidental only. The attempt to keep the head still usually results in a cramped swing. The important consideration is then not keeping the head still. Hitting the ball should be the point that stands out clearly. Numerous players maintain a fixed head but play the worst kind of golf.

Attempting to keep the head still stultifies the swing. It usually means that too much weight is kept on the left foot. It is quite likely to prevent a natural pivot and when this happens the swing becomes to upright and results as a rule in a slice. It may be that the head with most of the good players remain almost stationary but this seems to be more of an incidental than the cause of a good swing. In any event the conscious effort to keep the head still gives the swing an artificial look. A swing with ease and freedom even though the head moves will give better results than a cramped swing with a stationary head.

I venture to say there is not one good golfer who is conscious about keeping his head still while playing. Copyrighted.

SNOBBERY NOT CONFINED TO ONE SPECIAL CLASS

A recent editorial article in The Ottawa Journal says:—

"The word snob is commonly interpreted as descriptive of somebody who thinks himself better class than some other human-being merely because the latter does not happen to wear as good clothes. If this conception were accepted and analyzed, it would be found that the word snob applies also to people who think nastily of other human beings because the latter happens to wear better clothes. For the mental and moral calibre of the snob who looks down upon somebody else is no worse than the mental and moral calibre of the person who is jealous and angry because he has to look up to somebody else.

"This idea is recommended to the attention of the Toronto Star, which professes not to understand why The Journal applied the word snobbery to the action of the Dominion Parliament in passing a resolution objecting to not merely hereditary titles in this country, but to personal titles conferred for personal merit, and ending with the life of the recipient. The word snobbery was used because in The Journal's opinion a majority of the members of Parliament who voted that way did so because of the frame of mind we have suggested—namely, jealousy of men who had received or might receive recognitions which the members in question did not think it likely they could get themselves.

"The average aristocrat may be a snob, but so is the average Bolshevik. In the one case it is arrogance; in the other case it is envy and malice. In both, it is a refusal to recognize what is best that lies at the bottom of human worth, which we think is a proper definition of snobbery."

The Ottawa Journal has been drawn into an explanation of its attitude on the titles question, because of the snobbery of those who pretend to oppose all titles because they claim some titles have been improperly bestowed and therefore all titles must be wrong—a rather peculiar form of reasoning. The recent list of King's birthday honours emphasizes the snobbery of this attitude. Here is a partial list of those honoured by the King:—Sir John Bland-Sutton, the great surgeon; Dr. James Berry, the eminent authority of goitre; Mr. H. H. Hartz, the noted composer and conductor; Mr. Bernard Partridge, the world-famous cartoonist and artist; Madame Albani, the gifted singer; one of the Salvation Army "lasses"; and Mr Travers

Humphreys, the noted advocate; all men and women whose work has been of outstanding benefit to their country and to the world. Names such as these add lustre to any rank. Formal distinction honours them and they honour any distinction. To scorn the rank of knighthood that carries a roll of names so high in the useful lives of life as British knighthood does is to achieve the deepest scars of star-ish snobbery.

In a local note last week The North Bay Nugget says:—"A former well-known resident of North Bay, who now lives in Montreal, has been 'dunned' pretty hard by the town for payment of income tax. He finally sent a check along last week, but the council passed a resolution asking him to 'kindly put his name on the check so that it would be negotiable.' It had not been signed."

FRANK BYCK

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