

in golf-course materials. Some of the bids already received indicate that all of the clubs will save considerable money by cooperative purchasing.

REFLECTIONS ON BUNKERS

Some "golfomaniaic" has said that a really good bunker is both a guide and a chastener. Unfortunately a lot of golf architects have not yet learned of its first-named function. Most golf courses are still afflicted with hidden holes and deep pits which in no sense deserve to be called by the honorable term *bunker*.

Less objectionable than the concealed or "blind" bunkers are those half hidden. It is not uncommon to see a series of bunkers so built that each conceals in part those beyond. Such construction is not commendable and is practically always avoidable. Not rarely bunkers near the green are so built as to mask part of the green itself. In not a few instances bunkers guarding a green are built up too much in the form of mounds and ridges. Every one has seen a ball hit such an elevation and be deflected toward the hole. A good bunker should catch a poor shot and not convert it into the semblance of a good one. There are flukes enough possible in the game without building courses that increase the number.

Well-designed and well-built bunkers may add to the attractiveness of a view. One or two bunkers to a hole look, as a rule, artificial; but increase the number to six, eight, or more, and they really give character to the landscape. But made too formal or too artificial they offend the eye and ruin the vista. One architect says he finds the best model for his ridges the rounded peaks of the sky-line of a distant mountain range. He even contends that some of his bunkers are so alluring that the players like to get into them. Another uses the sky-line of a forest border.

Still another role of a bunker is to induce awe in the mind of the player—the effect so well called "mental hazard." As the wobbler on the bicycle runs the thing he tries to avoid, so the golfer is apt to drive toward the object he tries hardest to evade. Particularly is this true of a mashie-shot hole heroically guarded. Such a hole, if not well-bunkered, lacks all character. It recalls the story of the handsome old gentleman with flowing white whiskers who looked very learned and impressive, but a shrewd judge of men divined the real situation when he remarked: "Take away the whiskers and what is there left?" So with the mashie-shot hole—take away its artificial or natural terrors and there is nothing left.

It is one of the curious anomalies of golf that a course without bunkers is less easy to play well than one well bunkered. Good bunkers not only indicate clearly the line of play but they serve as landmarks by which the distance can be more closely estimated. Most American courses need more bunkers—but they should be attractive and fair, and above all things visible. Much of the protest by players against more bunkers is because they are too often unfair. Good bunkers, more than anything else, tend to make good players.

The Green Committee of the U. S. Golf Association is always pleased to publish items showing how work around courses can best be done.