

### Sensible Golf

That a \$100,000 course in no respect essential to golf has again been demonstrated at Napoleon, Ohio, a town of about five thousand people, on the banks of the Maumee River, forty miles above Toledo.

When the thought of having a golf course seized a few men in the town, they cast about to find a place, and quite naturally turned to seventy-odd acres of old pasture lying at the end of a street. The land, being near the river, was cut up by draws or ravines so that it was particularly suitable. A lease with an option of purchase at \$150 an acre was obtained. The rental being lower than the interest on the option price, the club will occupy the land on lease until the option must be exercised.

Nine really good golf holes were laid out by W. J. Rockefeller, of the Inverness Club, the length being about 2,700 yards. There was nothing mysterious about this layout. Natural places for greens were picked out, having due regard for the length of hole desired, and after a "once over" with a mowing machine the putting-greens were made.

The location of tees and tee boxes completed the course. Though the description may indicate a pretty rough sort of a course, it is far better than one would think. The greens have good shape and contours and need nothing in this world but top-dressing and cutting to make them good enough for anyone; and the great danger is that someone may try to improve on nature by rebuilding the greens and surrounding them with ill-arranged and nasty-looking sand traps and other hazards. If they will only let the greens alone and help them by top-dressing and cutting, they will probably have better greens than they can ever get otherwise.

The tees are all that any golfer is entitled to. Why should an ugly plateau be raised up and kept perfectly true in order to have a tee?

The town is golf crazy and in a sensible way, if it is possible for insanity to manifest itself in that way.

There is no clubhouse, no locker-room, "no nothing" except the golf course. The members dress and bathe at home and walk or drive to the course.

One man with a horse, a thirty-inch fairway mower, and a putting-green mower is able to take care of the course; and that is all there is to the expense.

If the good people of this town will only realize that they will get a better golf course by letting it alone than by trying to improve nature, this should be a conspicuous example of sensible golf. With just a little attention in the way of top-dressing and fertilizing, the fairways and greens should get better every year.

This is getting back to first principles, not only in the matter of good sense, but in the matter of layout, construction and maintenance. The first courses in Scotland were laid out in exactly this way.

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**Vegetative greens.**—According to information received from various sources about 125 putting-greens were planted this season by the vegetative method. The results from these will later be of much interest.

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**Area needed for a golf course.**—A golf course 6,500 yards with each hole 73 yards wide will occupy just 100 acres of land. It takes from 120 to 140 acres to have ample room for an 18-hole standard course.