

## Death of Mr. Ransom H. Thomas

Golfers throughout the country will be grieved to learn of the recent death of Mr. Ransom H. Thomas, a former president of the United States Golf Association. Mr. Thomas officiated as such in 1905 and 1906. He was a member of the Morris County Golf Club, Convent, N. J. A resolution of sympathy was passed by the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association at its last meeting.

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### Professionals and Prize Money

*To Members of the United States Golf Association:*

The Executive Committee has noticed with some misgivings the practice of offering unusually large purses indulged in by member clubs and sectional associations for the purpose of inducing golf professionals to compete in open tournaments and exhibitions. While the United States Golf Association has no desire to hinder or hamper any professional from competing in prize money tournaments or from earning money to the limit of his ability, nevertheless the present officials feel that if the practice now in vogue is not checked, great harm will be done in creating a class of professional players who will devote their entire time and attention to attending tournaments. The Executive Committee is aware of the great development of the game of golf within the past few years, both by professionals and amateurs. It is also aware of the keen desire of the ordinary golfer, throughout the country, to witness the performance of the leading professionals, and we assume that the growing interest in the game is partly responsible for the money inducements offered in open competitions.

The Committee feels that in their efforts to promote and keep alive the best interests of the game, they can not allow this practice to continue or increase without a protest. It is, therefore, earnestly requested that member clubs and sectional associations give this matter their earnest consideration and, in the future, when contemplating the staging of such tournaments, that the question of moderate prize money awards be carefully considered, bearing in mind that if this pastime is allowed to be commercialized by the professionals, as in other sports, the phenomenal interest now taken by the ordinary golfer in the game will be nullified to a great extent.—*By Order of the Executive Committee, U. S. Golf Association, Cornelius S. Lee, Secretary.*

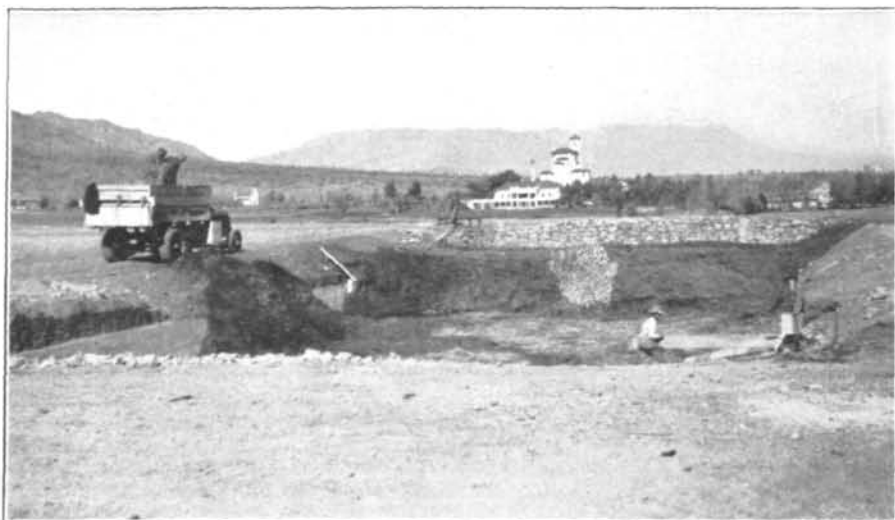
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### A Concrete Manure Pit

W. H. THORNE, *Broadmoor Golf Club, Colorado Springs, Colo.*

On account of the dry atmospheric conditions in Colorado, a condition which moreover affects to a greater or less extent the entire section of the country west of a line running through central Kansas, except the Pacific coast, it has been found necessary at the Broadmoor Golf Club to have recourse to the artificial moistening of manure when the straw content of the manure is considerable, in order to effect decomposition. To this end the Green Committee of the club has constructed a concrete manure pit. A general idea of the plan of construction of the pit may be obtained from the accompanying photographic view of the completed structure.

The barn manure is dumped into the pit, the contents then watered, and seepage collected in a sump at the bottom across one end of the pit. The seepage is then pumped from the sump as needed. The floor of the pit has a fall of one foot toward the sump end, and the floor of the sump has a fall of six inches to the pump end of the sump. The pit is 150 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 8½ feet deep. The concrete wall is 4 feet high



Concrete Manure Pit at Broadmoor Golf Club, Colorado Springs

and 6 inches thick. The sump is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep. At the sump end the concrete wall is surmounted by a vertical stone wall  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. At the end opposite the sump end the wall is surmounted by a sloping stone riprap. The sides of the pit above the concrete wall are sloping so as to facilitate unloading. A 4-inch centrifugal pump is used with 4-inch rubber suction hose and 3-inch discharge hose. The capacity of the pit is 2,361 cubic yards; of the sump, 4,875 gallons. The sump is covered by a flooring of oak poles, one end of which rests on an offset in the wall at the sump end. An entrance to the pit was provided by stepping the walls down 2 feet, and supplementing the step with a gang-plank. The top of the pit is natural grade at the end opposite the sump end. A 10-inch by 8-inch sill was bolted to studs set in the wet concrete.

The pit was built entirely by the golf course force, and fortunately the Broadmoor Club is the owner of concrete mixers and such other equipment as was needed for the construction work. The cut was 1,100 cubic yards. We used 655 sacks of cement, 150 feet of triangular reinforcing wire, and form lumber, using one 2-inch expansion joint across the middle of the pit and up through the side walls. Other expansion joints were put in the floor, and after construction the joints were filled with pitch. The cost of the pit including the installation of the pump and suction hose, was about \$2,200, but we have a permanent improvement on our course which will be of immense value under our conditions.

**Creeping bent plugs.**—Mr. Jones, greenkeeper at the Biltmore-Forest Club, Asheville, North Carolina, has a bent nursery. His greens are seeded, but when he gets ready to change the cups he cuts 18 plugs from his nursery and puts the new plugs in instead of the ones taken out of the green. In this way he is already making quite a start toward covering his greens with vigorous centers of bent.—*L. W. Ellis, Canterbury Golf Club, Cleveland, Ohio.*