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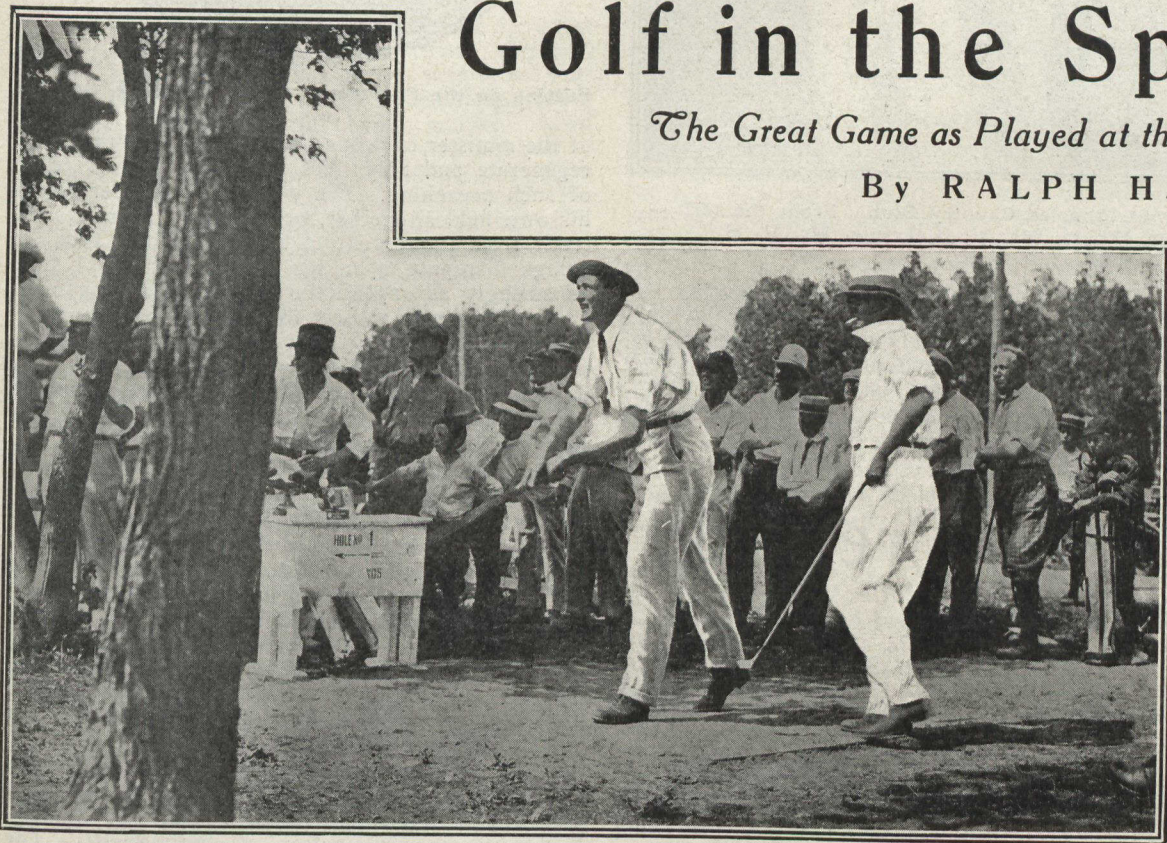
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## Golf in the Spacious West

*The Great Game as Played at the Two Big Clubs of Winnipeg*

By RALPH H. REVILLE



Mr. W. G. Laird and Mr. E. Legge, former Canadian Champion, playing off at the first tee of the St. Charles Country Club, Winnipeg. Mr. Legge's cigarette is still going, after the brilliant drive of his competitor.

WHO the hardy Scot was that first had the honour of driving a golf ball over the wild western prairies history defineth not, but that some employee of the Hudson Bay Company in the years long gone by brought bag and sticks from Auld Scotia and took a whack at the gutta hardly admits of a controversy. A Scot and his golf bag are not long disassociated. Perhaps in the past many a friendly two-ball match has been played between factor and clerk with Indian and half-breed as awe-struck spectators. A herd of buffalo would have made an excellent and exciting "moving hazard" and the centre of a bison wallow a generous but tricky and sticky hole.

Be that as it may, to-day the royal and ancient game has many devotees and the pursuit of "the naughty little, sporty little, gay golf ball" is becoming more and more popular all over the prairies. Where a few years ago two or three golfers were to be found gathered together there are now hundreds. Where there was once one or two clubs there are now dozens. No town of any importance is to be found without its golf course.

Winnipeg naturally enough claims the distinction of being the pioneer club of the West. It was on the 28th of June, 1894, that 13 golfing enthusiasts got together at the old Manitoba hotel and formed the Winnipeg Golf Club. That the number of the founders was anything but an ill omen is attested by the great popularity of the game to-day in the premier city of the West.

The site of the first links was in Norwood. These were only played on for a few months, the club acquiring a course at the rear end of St. James Park, and for twelve years it was played upon by the members. With the growth of the city the land became needed for building purposes, and with an increased number of golfers in the city it was believed that there was ample room in Winnipeg for two courses. Accordingly, in 1905, the St. Charles Country Club was formed, while other members went back to Norwood, a tract of land at the Red River

being based where up to the present time the club has had its home.

Now, however, the club has opened up really beautiful links at Bird's Hill, and has a course worthy in every way of the pioneer club of the West. Unlike most of the prairie courses, Bird's Hill has both rolling and hilly ground. The principal idea on which the course was based was to utilize in the first place the main ridge which runs east and west through the middle of the south half of the property, and secondly, the subsidiary hill known as Red Deer Hill, on which some splendid holes have been laid out.

On Saturday, August 23rd, 1913, these very sporty links were formally opened by a two days match, with the Wascana County Club, of Regina. In a couple of years the Winnipeg Golf Club should have at Bird's Hill an 18-hole course, which many a club in the East might well envy. The officers of the club are: President, Allan S. Bond; vice-president, W. Bain; secretary-treasurer, Harold Keene; directors, A. S. Bond, A. M. Stewart, W. Bain, Alex. Reid, W. O. Nares, C. Gordon, and H. D. Paterson.

THE St. Charles Country Club, Winnipeg, with a membership of 450, is well known the golfing world over. It is charmingly situated about six miles west of Winnipeg, at Portage Avenue. The club was established in 1905, and golf is the favourite pastime of its members. The course of 18 holes is 6,300 yards, the hazards consisting of trees, sloughs and artificial bunkers. Several new holes will be opened in 1914 along the river bank, where the ground is quite rolling. When these new greens are opened up the course will be much more diversified. As it is there are many sporty short and long holes. The greens on the whole are good and the fair greens make for excellent ties. The championship of Manitoba has just been played over the St. Charles course, there being a good field of entries, Mr. W. G. Laird, who was the runner-up for the Canadian championship, at Lambton, a few years ago, was one of the strong features of the tournament. The club has many strong golfers beside Mr. Laird, including Mr. E. Legge, a former Canadian champion; Mr. Douglas Laird and Mr. C. R. Wilson, the runner-up for the Manitoba championship this year. The St. Charles Club has been unfortunate enough to have had two club houses destroyed by fire during the past two or three years. A beautiful new \$75,000 building is now nearing completion. The officers of the club are: President, F. W. Drury; vice-president, and treasurer, J. B. Monk; hon. secretary, J. A. Botterell; chairman of sports and pastimes,



On the Thirtieth Green of the St. Charles Country Club, looking towards the Club House.