

GOLF HAS ELEVATED ETHICS OF THE COMMERCIAL WORLD

BY PERRY LEWIS

GOLF, the game, has elevated the ethics of business to a higher plane, and will continue to have a beneficial as well as a stimulating effect upon the commercial world. This is the conviction of Robert W. Lesley, chief executive of the local golf association for many years, former president of the national body and donor of the famous tri-state trophy which bears his name, who so expressed himself in discussing the many trade tournaments inaugurated during the season just closing.

There is no one better qualified to pass an opinion on this phase of golf than Mr. Lesley. Not only is he one of the recognized leaders of golf in America, but he is a man of big business and a close observer of trade conditions. Therefore he has the inclination and is equipped to go deeper into the real meaning of golf than those who simply play it.

“The game has done much for the ethics of business and will do more,” asserts Mr. Lesley. “This is true of the sport in a general sense, and particularly true of that phase of the game which has developed so rapidly this season—I refer to trade tournaments. When men get together in the great outdoors playing a game built on the cornerstone of honest sportsmanship and good fellowship, the doubts and suspicions they once had of each other are bound to be dissipated. A man isn't going to play golf with another man, and the next day victimize him by reckless trade cutting—and both of them know it. Therefore the more golf played the less trade regulation is essential. With a large per cent. of business men playing golf, it is no longer necessary for every man to keep his guard up always and to be guarded in the rear by special legislation for fear he will be knifed in the back.”

THE competitive golf season for men in the Philadelphia district practically came to an end Saturday when J. Wood Platt holed out for another year. There remains only the second thereby keeping the Lesley Cup in Pennsylvania for another year. There remains only the second annual brush for the H. H. Cornish Memorial Plaque, which will be played at the Torresdale Golf Club next Thursday. There are two other events outside the city in which the golfers of Philadelphia always take a prominent part, the

annual fall invitation tourney of the Shawnee Country Club, October 14-16, and the fall tournament of the Country Club of Atlantic City, October 21-23.

The windup of the season at Merion was well worthy of the season itself. Consider for a moment the sort of golf Philadelphia has enjoyed during the two weeks just passed.

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FIVE of the greatest golfers in the world were seen in action—Vardon, Ray, Evans, Ouimet and Herron, and every one of the five contributed a performance which added lustre to local golf history. Three achievements are well worthy of being entered on the page upon which are inscribed records of the greatest golf feats of all times. All three were accomplished on the championship East course of the Merion Cricket Club, one of the finest in the land. Look them over:

First: The 67 shot by Harry Vardon, which carried the six times British champion and his partner, Ray, to victory over Evans and Marston.

Second: The 68 contributed by Francis Ouimet in his Lesley Cup match with Peter Harmon, of New York. The great Bostonian had but one conceded putt, a two-footer on the thirteenth green.

Third: The string of seven holes put together by Dave Herron, after making the turn, which enabled him to come from behind and defeat Oswald Kirby, of New York, in the Pennsylvania-New York Lesley Cup contest. For those seven holes Herron was four under fours. The feat included three birds and four pars.

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THE recent Lesley Cup matches at Merion assume more of their real importance when considered in retrospect. Of the 32 golfers who qualified in the National Championship, 16 were in the action for this famous trophy, and few of these 16 failed to progress beyond the first round of the title event.

It is significant to note that of the ten players who represented Pennsylvania in the twosomes against New York, eight were of Philadelphia. Fownes and Herron being the only two Pittsburghers who played. This was something of an innovation as the team is usually split, five being from the western end of the State and the same number drawn from local ranks.