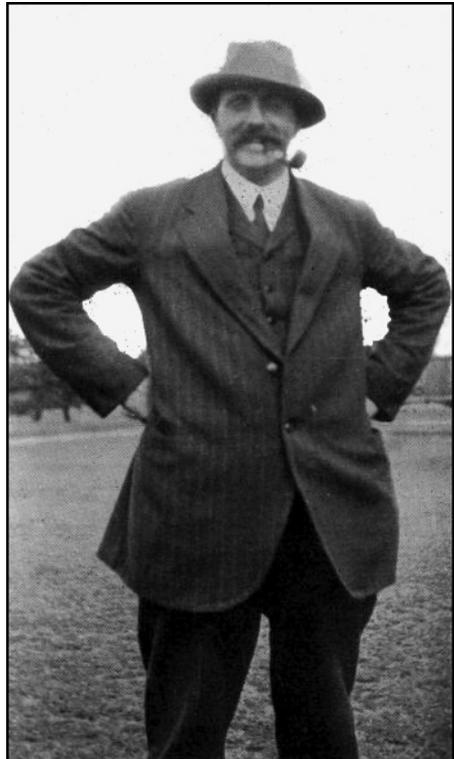


ONDON, July 10, 1912.

Edward Ray, the new Open Champion, is in all respects a most interesting personality. He is now thirty-four years of age, was born at Jersey in the Channel Islands, close to the place where Harry Vardon himself first saw the light of day, and he learned his golf in much the same way on the public common at Grouville where a party of British golfers a few years before had first laid out a course. When he was about twelve years of age he first began to carry clubs as a caddie, and to make his first attempts at playing the game himself. At that time and place the golfers were not numerous, and they had not as many clubs to spare as they have in these days, so the boys who wanted to play had to make their own. Ray made his first drivers just as Harry Vardon did. He cut a piece off the branch of a tree, and shaped it as best he could with a pocket knife until it was something like the head of a wooden club. Then he bored a hole through it with a red hot poker, and fixed a stick into the hole, and there was the driver! It often happened that large stone or glass marbles had to be used for balls, and it can easily be imagined that heads made in the manner I have described would not bear much use without splitting. Consequently it was sometimes found advisable to sheathe them with tin.

With such primitive implements it was really astonishing how well the boys could drive. Ray, always famous for his long driving since he became a professional in England, was a long driver for his class even in those early days, and could get an appreciably longer ball than any of his contemporaries. It seemed at that time, however, that golf might not take full possession of him, for as a



"The Man with the Pipe," as they called Edward Ray, the new champion, at Muirfield.

boy and young man he was very versatile in sporting matters, and devoted himself enthusiastically to other games. His father was a fisherman, and Ray used to go out to sea with him on long fishing expeditions. Then, he was a very clever football player, and used regularly to play for the Island in the matches in which it engaged with visiting teams. He was a thoroughly good cricketer, and so fond was he of this game that he constantly deserted his golf for it. Also he was extremely good at boxing, and had a good training in the "noble art of self defence," as they call it, at a boxing school that was established in his native village.

However, soon after leaving school, he obtained work as an assistant groundsman on the links, and though he occasionally left his job in order to take part in cricket matches, golf gradually became his master after that. At about seventeen years of age he was playing a good scratch game, and then he secured his first appointment as professional for a season at a little nine-hole course near St. Malo, not far away. After that he had a summer season as professional at an eighteen holes course at Guernsey. About this time his game was developing very fast, and the people who saw him play began to think that he had a future, so the Jersey Golf Club decided to give him a chance of showing what he could do in competition with others, and sent him over to England to take part in a competition that was being held by the Winchester G. C. Many of the leading professionals were taking part in this event, but young Ray came in first, and there was no doubt then as to what would be his future occupation in life.

He soon obtained an appointment as professional to the Churston Club in Devonshire, and remained there for three and a half years. Then, when Harry Vardon left Ganton in Yorkshire for Totteridge near London, where he has been ever since, his fellow Channel Islander succeeded him; and he had been there for nine years and a half when he left at the beginning of this year to become professional to a new club that has been started at Oxhey near London. He first made his appearance in the championship at Sandwich in 1899. That was the year of Harry Vardon's third victory, and it so happened that during the competition Ray was partnered for a time with the great Harry—rather a trying ordeal in the circumstances, but one that he came through with great credit. The story is often told that he went to that championship with only three clubs in his bag, a driver, an iron, and a putter, and that his Jersey brethren insisted on his being better fitted out and filled his bag up for him. It is a good story, but I do not think it is true. Two or three years later he began to creep up very high in the championship lists. Four years back he was third. Last year and in 1907 he was fourth. He was fifth in 1909, sixth in 1902, eighth in 1905, and ninth in 1904 and 1906. For many years past he has been named at the outset when championship prospects were being discussed, but things never seemed to go his way until this year, and it began to appear that his luck was out so far as the big event was concerned.

This year, however, there was a strong idea about that his time was coming, and his professional friends made him their favorite from the very

beginning. Just before the championship meeting opened at Muirfield he took part in a professional tournament in the Edinburgh district at a place called Cramond Brig, and there he played some most sensational golf. He did rounds of 63 and 70, and in the former were no fewer than ten threes, his card reading:

Out—4 3 5 4 3 3 3 4—32
 In —4 4 3 3 4 3 4 3—31—63

The Cramond Brig course is distinctly on the short side, but for all that Ray's play was of a phenomenal character, and it easily gave him the first prize. It was not this, however, that made the people at Muirfield put him into the position of favorite at the beginning, but a somewhat unexplainable feeling that his time was coming. He seemed to be full of confidence, and long driver as he has always been, he was driving farther than ever, and was undoubtedly the mightiest hitter at the meeting, constantly having to use iron clubs when the best of the others were taking wood.

The international match between picked sides of English and Scottish professionals was played on Tuesday, June 18, two days before the beginning of the championship, and Ray was captain of the English side on that occasion, but failed to win his match against George Duncan, who was probably second best favorite for the championship and was playing an exceedingly fine game. In this match singles were played in the morning and foursomes in the afternoon, as usual, and as on some previous occasions, Harry Vardon and James Braid played in the top match in the singles. They had a very strange match. Braid was good at the beginning, and was two up at the turn. Winning the tenth he was three up, but he never

won another hole after that, and the match was square going to the last green. On this last green, Braid actually took four putts and so he lost the match for Scotland. In the afternoon in the foursomes Braid and Herd were opposed to Vardon and Taylor, and the latter were dormy one. Both sides were bunkered in front of the home green, but got well out. When the first putts had been made Herd found himself stymied and failed to loft over the other ball, but Taylor then missed a two-foot putt and the match. Each side won three singles and three foursomes, and the result was therefore a tie, which is the best that Scotland has done since the match was first played in 1903. The following are the figures in the Braid and Vardon match, and the results of the day:

Braid:
 Out—3 4 4 4 4 4 4 5 4—36
 In —4 4 5 4 3 4 6 4 6—40—76

Vardon:
 Out—4 4 3 4 5 5 4 5 4—38
 In —5 4 4 4 3 3 4 4 4—35—73

SINGLES.

ENGLAND.		SCOTLAND.	
Matches		Matches	
Harry Vardon (South Herts (1 hole)	1	James Braid, Walton Heath	0
J. H. Taylor, Mid-Surrey	0	Alec Herd, Coombe Hill (3 and 2)	1
E. Ray, Oxhey (capt.)	0	George Duncan, Hanger Hill (4 and 2)	1
J. Sherlock, Stoke Poges	0	James Hepburn, Home Park (capt.) (2 and 1)	1
Tom Williamson, Nottingham (4 and 3)	1	R. Thomson, North Berwick	0
Tom Ball, Raynes Park	0	J. White, Sunningdale	0
P. J. Gaudin, Fulwell (4 and 3)	1	L. B. Ayton, Bishop's Stortford	0
T. G. Renouf, Manchester	0	Tom Fernie, Turnberry (2 and 1)	1
Rowland Jones, Wimbledon Park (6 and 5)	1	W. Watt, Dirlerton	0
C. H. Mayo, Burhill (1 hole)	1	James Kinnell, Purley Downs	0
W. E. Reid, Banstead Downs	0	Ben Sayers, Sr., North Berwick	0
J. B. Batley, Bushey Hall	0	Alan Gow, Gog Magog (1 hole)	1
Total	5	Total	5

FOURSOMES.

ENGLAND.		SCOTLAND.	
Vardon and Taylor...	0	Braid and Herd (1 h.)	1
Ray and Sherlock....	0	Duncan and Hepburn	
Williamson and Ball		(2 and 1).....	1
(5 and 4).....	1	Thomson and White..	0
Gaudin and Renouf..	0	Ayton and Fernie (2	
Jones and Mayo (2		holes).....	1
and 1).....	1	Watt and Kinnell....	0
Reid and Batley (5		Sayers and Gow.....	0
and 4).....	1		
Total	3	Total	3

Aggregates: England, 8 matches; Scotland, 8 matches; with two matches halved.

Of the previous matches played England has won four and Scotland one, with three ties.

However, to revert to Ray and his characteristics, he is certainly one of the tallest and strongest of professional players of the game, for his height is six feet one, he scales thirteen stone seven, and his strength of arm and wrist is enormous. His style of driving is not pretty, but it is exceedingly effective. He uses drivers with steel faces, and when he is coming down on to the ball he makes a great lunge at it, and sometimes nearly goes off his feet at the finish. He gets an enormous length, chiefly through carry, and there is no doubt that the small and heavy balls that are now the vogue suit him even better than they do most other men. He was one of the very first to take them up. His short game has also its peculiarities. He takes a very short backswing, and follows through a long way for even the very short shots, and he holds his wrists rather loosely. He has never been seen in knickers, plays always in a soft felt hat with the brim bent down, and is always smoking a pipe when playing. Nobody ever saw him at Muirfield without his pipe in his mouth, and his partner on the last day, Sherlock, told me that he smoked three pipes full of tobacco while playing the first eight holes in the fourth round. To this it

need only be added that he is a very pleasant fellow, is extremely popular, makes a fine champion, and everybody is glad that he won.

Ray and two or three of the other leading professionals were using a new kind of aluminum putter at Muirfield. It had only been brought out for the first time two or three days before the meeting began. It differs from the ordinary kind of aluminum club which is in general use in that the back part of the top is cut away to a lower level than the front part so as to give another line parallel to the front edge and about three quarters of an inch behind it. The idea is that these parallel lines assist the player to square the club more exactly to the line of the putt than he could with the other putters about which some players complained that the curved line at the back was to some extent a distraction.

One of the most remarkable features of the Open Championship, and one that is most disappointing to amateur golf in this country, is the complete failure of the amateur competitors. It was abject in the extreme and most humiliating. There were more than twenty of them entered in the first place, but only three survived the qualifying rounds. Not one got through the preliminary test on either the first or second days, those who failed including the amateur champion, Mr. John Ball, Mr. Hilton, Mr. Robert Maxwell (who is at home at Muirfield and generally does well on the course), Captain Hutchison, and Mr. John Graham, who made his first appearance in any championship for two years, and who, the last time the open event was held at Muirfield, broke the record of the course in his very first round. The three men who

did get through the qualifying test were all in the third section; but in the competition proper not one of them returned a score of less than 81, and they all finished very low down in the list, one of the three being at the very bottom. When Mr. Hilton came so very near to winning the Open Championship at Sandwich last year, hopes were revived that amateur golf was going to make a better show against the professional kind in the future than it had been doing, and the results at Muirfield come as a great disappointment now.

It goes without saying that McDermott's failure in the first qualifying section was a very bitter pill for him to swallow. In practice on the Muirfield course before the championship began he had been showing splendid form, and had done four 71's in a week. On these occasions, however, he had been playing either without a wind at all, or one from the southeast, which is the easiest for Muirfield. The wind came from the west on the Thursday morning for the first time for weeks, and then the course was in its most difficult state and moreover, presented features with which McDermott was quite unfamiliar. I had a short chat with him on the day before the championship began, and he seemed very confident then, and said he liked the course very much indeed. He was playing all the time in a jacket and knickers in full British style. He said that he felt a little handicapped by the jacket, and that if the weather got warm during the championship he should discard it. However, it never did get warm until the last day, and there was plenty of rain during the meeting. He knew that he was in a tight corner at the end of his first round, the very bad

one, and was in a very anxious state. He told me that he thought it was not beyond his powers to make such a good return in the afternoon as would get him a place in the twenty, and he ment to make a desperate try. So he did, but it was really not possible for him to get in after his 91 in the morning. If his first round had only been as good as his second he would have qualified easily.

The experience will do him good. It had, of course, nothing to do with his putting those three balls out of bounds from the seventh tee, but I think perhaps he was just a little too confident and had not a full appreciation of the magnitude of the task upon which he was engaged. He was so utterly disappointed afterwards that he made up his mind at once to return to America on the Saturday, while the championship was still in progress, and I believe he even went so far as to book his passage. Mr. J. G. Anderson, however, prevailed upon him to abandon this idea and instead go over with him to Paris for the Open Championship of France where he would have the opportunity that he so much desired of getting himself into direct competition with the leading professionals of this country who go over to La Boulie for this championship every year. Accordingly McDermott and Mr. Anderson went along there, and what happened is related in another part of this issue. Mr. Anderson, of course, went as the silver medallist in last year's amateur championship at La Boulie, when Mr. "Chick" Evans beat him in the final at the thirty-eighth hole. McDermott sailed from Cherbourg for home the day after the Open Championship of France was finished.

I am given to understand that it



Scotland (Geo. Duncan) and America (J. J. McDermott) in France, in the French Open championship at LaBoulie, Versailles.

is extremely likely that McDermott will come over here again for next year's Open Championship, which will be held at Hoylake. Before the disaster at Muirfield, the scheme that he had in his mind was not to come next year, but in the year following. He is now, however, anxious to have another try at the first possible opportunity; hence the change of plans.

The professionals were very disappointed with the arrangements made for their comfort and convenience at Muirfield. At the beginning at all events practically nothing was done, and they were left to shift for themselves as best they could. The discomfort that was thrust upon them was worse than it has been known at any championship meeting, and it has

been pretty bad at some of them in recent years. The result was that at a meeting of their Association, held during the championship, it was determined that some time before the date of next year's championship a small sub-committee that was appointed for the purpose should make mild representations to the authorities as to their justifiable requirements.

A pathetic figure at Muirfield was that of Jack Burns who won the Open Championship in 1888, but about whom there is very little of the Open Champion now left. He is a regular caddie at St. Andrews, and at several Open Championship meetings has been carrying clubs for competitors. He was doing so at Muirfield.

As I said last month would be the case, Mr. Fred Herreshoff did not go to the Open Championship, but before he left England he took part in the Gold Vase competition on the course of the Mid-Surrey club at Richmond. This competition is decided by two rounds of stroke play, and Mr. Herreshoff was coupled with Mr. Hilton. He made a very moderate first round of 81, and though he followed this up with a good 76 in the afternoon his aggregate of 157 placed him a long way down the list, the winner being Mr. Robert Harris, who with 73 and 74 had a total of 147. Mr. Hilton did 77 and 76, making a total of 153. There was a strong entry. This gold vase is worth \$1,500, and anyone who wins it three years in succession becomes the owner. Mr. Harris captured it last year, and thus has won it twice running, and if he repeats his success next season, which is not in the least unlikely, he will take the pot.

I am told that Mr. Hilton will sail for New York in the second week of

August in order to take part in the U. S. A. amateur championship. An effort is being made to induce a number of other amateurs to cross the Atlantic for the same purpose, and it is likely that two or three at least will do so, but nothing has yet been definitely settled in the matter.

I have noticed that most of the American golfers who come over to this country to play in championships or merely enjoy themselves always make a favorite of the Prestwick course. Over and over again they have said that they like it better than any other. It is certainly a most interesting one, but there can be no doubt that in these days it has grave deficiencies which have chiefly been caused by the rubber-cored ball. Some of its holes are now thoroughly bad, and none is more so than the third, which is the famous Cardinal. The faults of Prestwick were very strikingly displayed at last year's amateur championship, and there was a general feeling then that something

would have to be done to the famous old course, the one on which the Open Championship was first played for and on which the Morrisises, father and son, achieved their early triumphs, though Prestwick then was not what it is now. The Prestwick Club has had the courage to decide to make the changes that are necessary, and the other day they had Mr. Robert Maxwell and James Braid over there surveying the ground and thinking out what alterations it would be best to make. Before the next championship is played there the changes will have been made. Several of the holes will be lengthened and their character altered, and it is safe to say that the old Cardinal will not remain as it is. Probably something will be done to the short holes also, and for long there has been a feeling that the eighteenth, which is now just a comfortable one-shot hole, is not quite the right sort of thing to finish up with on a championship course.

