

# Dornick Hills Course Being Made Ready For State Tournament Next Year; Perry Maxwell Is Wizard

**T**RANSFORMING what appeared to be an endlessly productive stone quarry into one of the finest and most unique golf courses in linkdom is what Perry D. Maxwell of Ardmore has accomplished with Dornick Hills Country Club in the short space of seven years.

This is the links which next year will break the corner Oklahoma City, Muskogee and Tulsa have had on the Oklahoma championship tournaments.

The entire eighteen holes of grass greens will be in perfect condition by the time the state tournament is played next June.

## Cost Only \$10,000

An outstanding feature of this accomplishment is the fact that there has been an expenditure of only \$10,000.

There were numerous problems to grapple with in the early days of building the links. Perhaps the greatest was the many doubling Thomases who prophesied that nothing good could come out of a topography so foreign to the usual "straight down the middle, over the bunker onto the green, and the best putter won" course.

## Maxwell Has Different Ideas

But Mr. Maxwell had in mind a higher brand of golf than the billiard fable type. He recognized the diamond of superlative golfing features that could be fashioned from this rough, which would call for versatility and variety in playing—in other words bring into action a little grey matter along with the physical prowess. And so it was that scoffers were pushed aside and over what seemed insurmountable difficulties the dreamer proceeded to fulfill his own vision.

It is a matter for comment how one's handicaps are often blessings in disguise. Mr. Maxwell, who has been president of the club from the beginning, realized that the members could not afford the expense of bringing a professional to build the links. Very well, since the mountain would not come to Mahomet, he, Mahomet,

would go journeying to the mountain. He visited the finest golf courses in the East, getting advice from all the leading amateurs and Pros of the United States. Even now Mr. Maxwell is planning a trip to the old country—Scotland—where golf had its conception. With this knowledge, so gained, the President has personally superintended all work done on the course.

## 500 Acres Purchased

Taking possession consisted of purchasing approximately 500 acres of land in order to obtain the 80 acres now used for the 9-hole course, and the 100 acres needed for the consummation of his original plan—an 18-hole course, which will possibly be completed in 1924. At the completion of these 18 holes, Dornick Hills has been offered the State Tournament.

After the land was bought and partially cleared there still remained the very trifling (?) task of removing 1,000 loads of stones before even the field mowers could run.

## Pioneer in Grass Greens

Dornick Hills is the pioneer golf course of Oklahoma in having grass greens and every day in the year, practically, is golf-playing day in this part of the state. Sheltered as the course is by natural protections, nevertheless, the wind is the final reckoner of the scores. Whether you play a mashie, a midiron, or a full drive is altogether according to your ability to buffet into, across and against the wind.

This club had the pleasure, recently, of entertaining Gene Sarazen, present U. S. champion—the "little David that stopped the Goliath trio," known to golfers as Walter, Jim and Jock. The latter, Jock Hutchinson, open British champion, was here at the same time and made the course 14 par figures, first time that has been done in the history of Dornick Hills' golfdom.

Jock pronounced No. 7 hole—which happens to be an original creation of Mr. Maxwell's—the finest par 5 hole he had ever seen on any course. The

Above left: Looking south from No. 8 tee to No. 8 green and the clubhouse.

Above, right: Looking southeast from No. 6 tee to No. 6 green.

Below: Perry D. Maxwell.

green is on a natural bluff, 50 feet higher than the tee, with 40 feet of this coming within the last 100 yards. A winding creek follows the right hand fairway, thus penalizing all slices. Such unusual topography gives this hole its interesting individuality.