



Some idea of the Herculean task of constructing the Lido course is gained from this photograph which shows in the foreground the commencement of the filling process by pumping sand and the water of the lagoons which is now all hard ground

## THE LIDO GOLF COURSE

By C. B. MACDONALD

**L**AST year the site of the new Lido Golf Links near Long Beach was a flat sea meadow partly under water. This unpromising territory was chosen for the making of an ideal golf course partly because of its climate and proximity to New York but partly also because it left the hand of the golf architect perfectly free to build his course from the bottom up. It was Mr. C. B. Macdonald who conceived the simple though expensive plan of pouring out a golf course just as Mr. Edison pours out concrete houses. The sea meadow was first filled in where the water covered it, and then all the hills and undulations of an ideal course were constructed by pumping sand out of the lagoon on to the level sur-

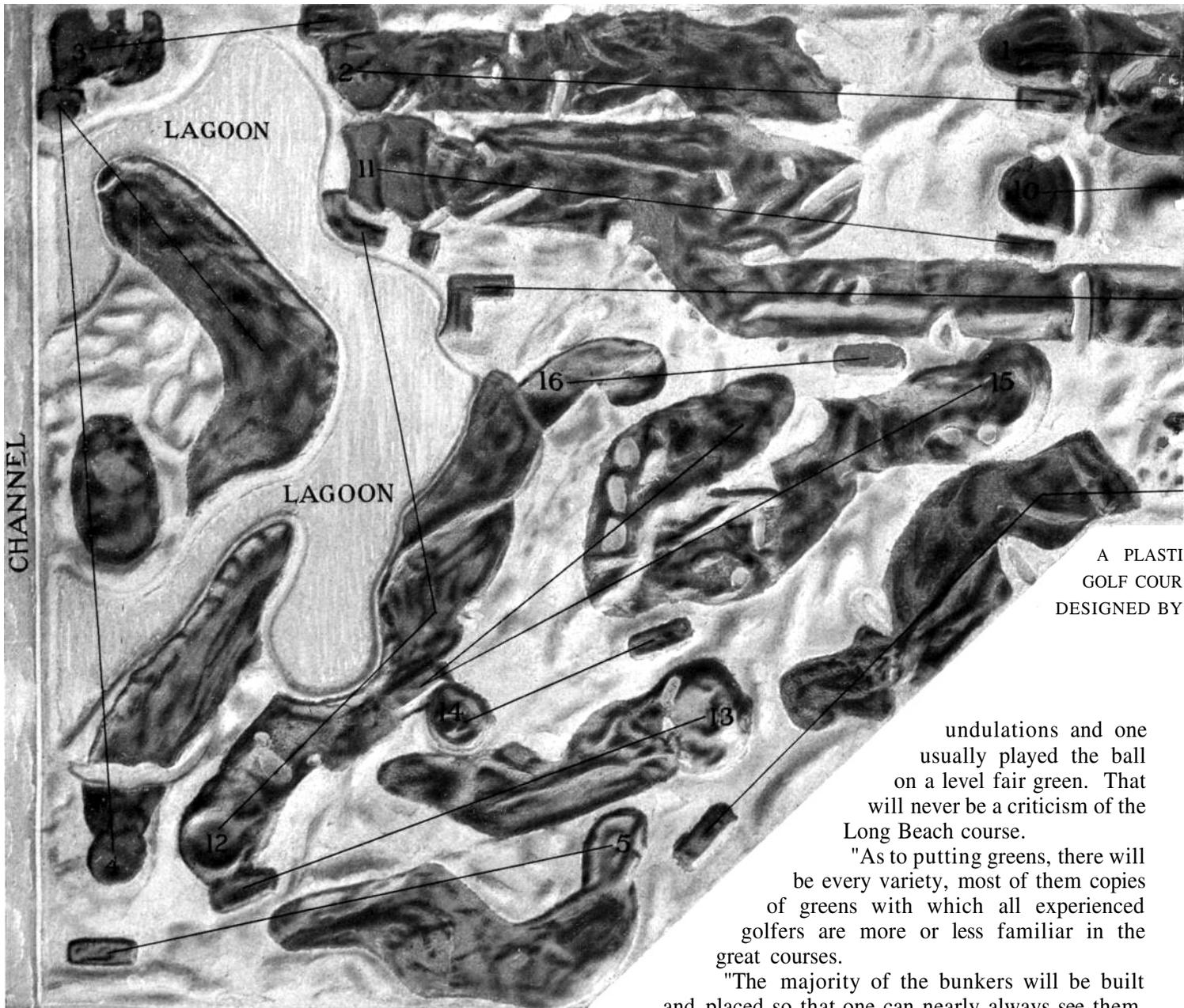
face of the meadow. This part of the work is practically finished and by the fall the course will be ready for seeding. Play of some sort will be possible over the course next June if weather conditions are normal, though it will be fall next year before good golf can be expected. Every hole on the course has been molded so as to make it as perfect as nature has made some of the holes on the classic courses abroad, and every hole will have a distinct character of its own. Mr. C. B. Macdonald the architect of this colossal enterprise has kindly written out a short description of the course for readers of GOLF ILLUSTRATED.

"To write a description of any golf course neces-



This photograph was taken from the 5th green looking back toward the tee and shows the nature of the rough, sandy hillocks covered with beach grass

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A PLASTIC  
GOLF COURSE  
DESIGNED BY

undulations and one usually played the ball on a level fair green. That will never be a criticism of the Long Beach course.

"As to putting greens, there will be every variety, most of them copies of greens with which all experienced golfers are more or less familiar in the great courses.

"The majority of the bunkers will be built and placed so that one can nearly always see them. They will be real bunkers—that is, sand excavations.

"The side hazards will be sand, with bent grass.

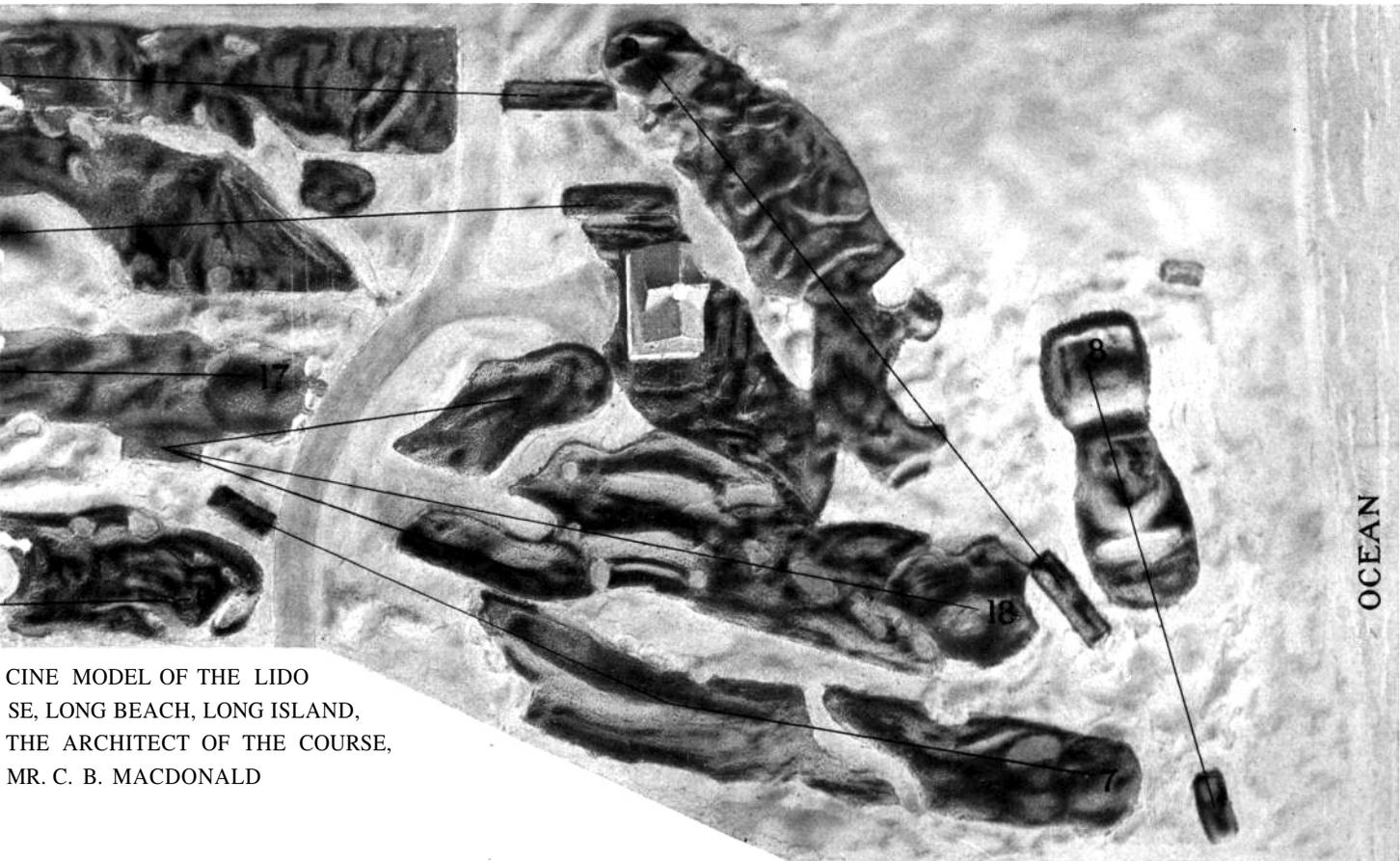
The length of the course speaks for itself:

No.	Yds.	Par	No.	Yds.	Par
1	375	4	10	400	4
2	405	4	11	390	4
3	160	3	12	420	4
4	510	5	13	300	4
5	320	4	14	130	3
6	466	5	15	400	4
7	440	5	16	190	3
8	220	3	17	540	5
9	340	4	18	400	4
	3236	37		3170	35

"The width of the fair green will vary from 45 to 60 yards, according to the character of the hole.

"The teeing grounds will be 40 to 50 yards in length

sitates stating the premises upon which is based the description—for instance, the undulations and hillocks, the character and placing of the bunkers, the variety of putting greens, each to suit the particular character of hole, the quality of turf, the width of the fair green, and the description of the teeing grounds with their proximity to putting greens—in fact there is so much ground to cover that I can give you only a very brief description. To start with, the undulations will vary on the different holes. Some will be longitudinal, some will be lateral, and others will be at various angles, so that the player will be obliged to play his ball in every conceivable position in relation to his stance. The reader may recall Vardon's article in which, while it was full of most inaccurate statements—such as there being one hundred bunkers in the best holes in Great Britain—he made one good criticism of a very large majority of American golf courses, and that is that there were no



CINE MODEL OF THE LIDO  
 SE, LONG BEACH, LONG ISLAND,  
 THE ARCHITECT OF THE COURSE,  
 MR. C. B. MACDONALD

and quite in close proximity to the putting greens.

"The lengths are from the middle of the tee to the middle of the green, which means every hole can be shortened or lengthened 30 to 40 yards.

"The first hole is more or less like the fifteenth or Narrows at the National, which is a good drive and a full iron shot. A player may find a lie of varying stance, as the undulations run diagonally across the green. The second shot must be very accurate. The hole can be made more or less difficult by the placing of the cup on the green.

"The second hole resembles in some measure the eleventh at the National. The shot from the tee is a blind one, but on the fall there is considerable slope which gives, particularly to the long driver who carries the bunkers to the right, a run which leaves him a driving iron or cleek to the green. The green is a double plateau and is built after one of the prize greens selected by a committee consisting of Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Darwin and Mr. Fowler out of eighty designs submitted to them in Great Britain for the best two-shot hole.

"The third hole is a copy of the Eden, or eleventh, at St. Andrew in Scotland. The only point here is that the bank protecting the green has been made much steeper than that at St. Andrews or the other holes built in this country modelled after the eleventh at St. Andrews.

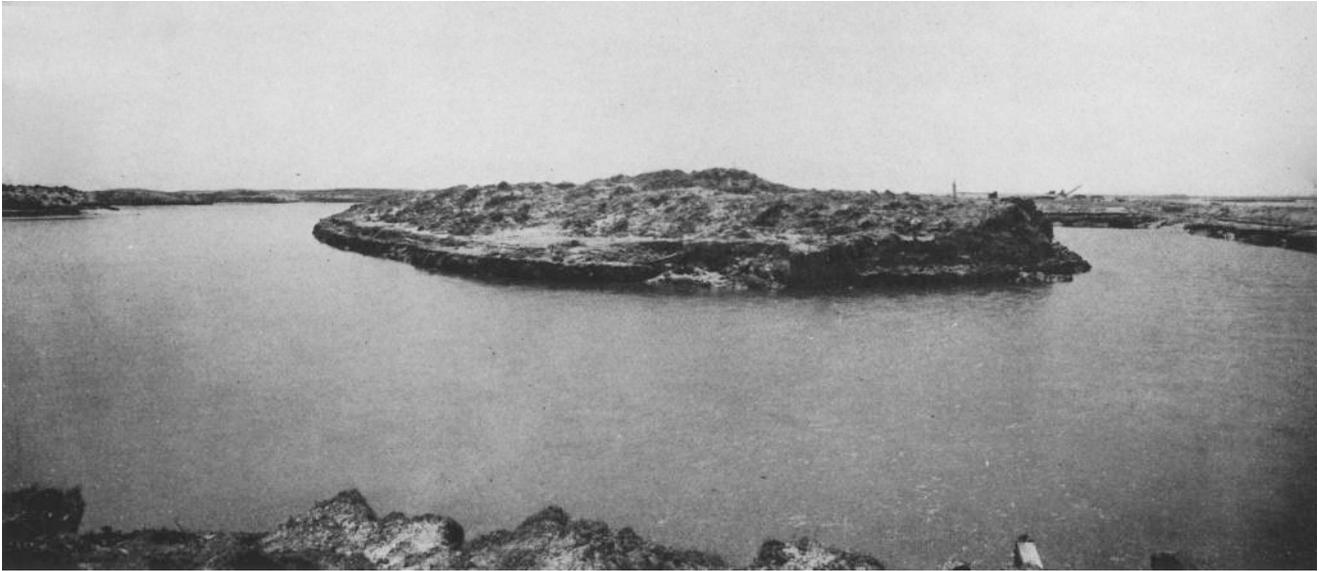
"The fourth hole is a long hole of the elbow type, which to the usual scratch player will be a three-shot hole, 510 yards in length. Both the first and second shots will be over water. The green is built high on the plateau with a

deep bunker protecting it some 60 yards from the middle of the green. However, unusually long drivers, who are accurate, may play in a pocket among sand dunes by carrying .180 yards off the tee direct on the flag into a valley of fair green some 100 yards in length by 30 yards in width. Having accomplished that, they have a brassie shot for the green, making a par-four-hole of it by playing it that way. It is a hole the idea of which I got from one of the last holes on the links at Littlestone, England. I think this hole will be considered the finest 510-yard hole in the world.

"The fifth hole resembles the Cape hole at the National, but the bunkering and undulations probably make it a little more scientific than our Cape hole off the tee. One will always see however that it is the creation of man and not the creation of Nature, for it has, as most holes on this course have, the technical design of an architect rather than the inimitable design of nature.

"The sixth hole has many of the features of the seventeenth at St. Andrews in Scotland. The green is a replica of that green reversed, approaching from the left instead of from the right. This hole also is of the elbow type. The undulations and bunkering are so arranged as to give the long player a great advantage. On the second shot there is a large and important bunker to carry.

"In the seventh hole will be found a similarity to the hog-back or fifth at the National, though the Lido hole is somewhat shorter, requiring a drive and a brassie shot. The undulations are parallel with the line of play. The bunkers are much bolder than at the National hole.



This photograph was taken from the fourth tee and shows the lagoon over which the drive is made to an island which is seen in course of construction

"The eighth hole, 220 yards, is a one-shot brassie or drive and will be known as the Biarritz hole, an improvement on the ninth at Piping Rock.

"The ninth hole resembles the seventeenth at the National. The hole is some 30 yards longer than the National hole, but the principles involved are the same: that is to say, the long driver who can carry 190 to 200 yards over deep bunkers has a clean run-up to the hole. Anything under that means a pitch shot to the green, and if one takes the shortest way in his carry from the tee, he makes for himself a difficult long carry for his second which will scarcely hold the green.

"The tenth is laid out on the principle of the seventeenth at Prestwick, Scotland, resembling the third at the National and the seventeenth at Piping

Rock. The discussion which raged throughout the United Kingdom in 1901 and 1902 as to which was the best one-shot, two-shot and three-shot hole, showed that a large majority of the first class players considered this the best two-shot hole in the world and time has not in any measure altered that opinion. The only point is that the Alps at Prestwick is 375 yards, which, with a gutty ball was two good shots with wood. To-day, with the rubber-cored ball, the hole should be at least 400 yards, and this is the length of the tenth at Long Beach. I might say here that it was this "best hole" discussion in 1901 and 1902 that gave me the inspiration to build a classic golf course, the result being the National Golf Links of America. My experience in that undertaking, my study of golf construction, and heed of the criticisms



Looking northwest from the Alps hill (tenth hole), showing the 17th fairgreen, with stakes indicating height of fill still to be made and just beyond the raised tee to the eighteenth hole

of those entitled to criticize, all are expressed in the construction of the Long Beach course.

"The eleventh hole is a composite hole, with lateral undulations, where an over-approach will bring one into the water beyond the green. The placing of the ball from the tee is most important for the second shot.

"The twelfth hole is the Punch Bowl, a 420-yard hole, a drive and a brassie. On the first shot, over the lagoon, the player can 'bite off as much as he can chew.' A 180 or 190-yard carry gives him a running fall, which will leave him a driving iron shot for the green. The green is well protected by a large bunker running entirely across the fair green. A topped second would either catch this bunker or the water.

"The thirteenth is a drive-and-pitch hole similar to the Knoll or thirteenth at Piping Rock. The undulations are very pronounced in the fairway, so that one will have to play the ball from every character of stance.

"The fourteenth is the short hole familiar to everyone who has played the sixth at the National and the seventeenth at Piping Rock. During the championship at Hoylake in 1906, at a meeting of the Rules of Golf Committee, Mr. Horace Hutchinson, Mr. John L. Low and myself discussed the best character for a short hole and this particular hole was drawn out. The great feature of the hole is the undulations on the putting green. When the flag is in the horse-shoe in the middle of the green one should always play for a two. Another essential feature of a short hole of this character is that there should be a valley between the player and the hole which deceives the player as to its length. It has been said that the short hole at the National was modelled after the short hole at Brancaster. It is true I mentioned the short hole at Brancaster at our meeting, but the criticism of that hole is that the green is higher than the tee, so that one cannot see where the flag goes into the hole. On all short holes the player should be able to see where the pin enters the hole.

"The fifteenth is a copy of one of the prize holes awarded by the English committee before named. It needs accurate placing of the ball and an accurate approach.

"The sixteenth hole is a replica of the Redan at North Berwick, familiar in this country to those who have played the fourth at the National or the third at Piping Rock. Comment upon this hole is unnecessary as it is so well known, but it may be interesting to know that in the controversy in 1901 and 1902 as to the best holes, the majority of players named the eleventh at St. Andrews first, but the Redan at North Berwick ran it a very close second. To my mind, although I am a St. Andrews man, the only reason the eleventh at St. Andrews was selected by the majority is that the St. Andrews hole was better known than the Redan. I consider the Redan to be the finest one-shot hole in the world, and on any golf course where one has freedom in choice there should always be a Redan placed.

"The seventeenth is another composite hole, based chiefly on the principle of bunkers in echelon. The player who makes a great carry can run down through the valley and get a fine second shot, making an easy approach to the green, while one who takes a shorter way is confronted with undulations which make the shot more or less difficult. There is a carry over a deep cross bunker some 350 yards from the tee that necessitates a good drive and a good second.

"The eighteenth hole is a copy of the hole that took the first prize in the competition abroad, the architect being Dr. Mackenzie, who is a noted golf expert. This hole gives one three different fair greens to play to from the tee, each one to be chosen according to the player's ability and according to the wind. The fairway is full of bunkers and the second shot must be as accurate as the first. As a finishing hole I know of none that will give a golfer whose opponent has him one down a better chance to retrieve himself at the last hole than this one, unless it be the eighteenth at the National."



The tenth or Alps green under construction