

GOLF.

W. Sutton's Omission from Walker Cup List.

CLASS DISTINCTION ALLEGED.

Indignation in Cheshire.

"Distinctly I want it to be understood that no protest against not being included in the sixteen probable British representatives for the Walker Cup match against United States amateurs has come from me," said William Sutton to a reporter at the golfer's Budston home yesterday. Sutton is an oil-worker in the Birkenhead district, and some comment has been made upon the fact that he is not mentioned in the list of sixteen players nominated by St. Andrews to form the selection basis of the British international team at Sandwich in May.

Sutton is the holder of the English amateur championship, an honour which he won at Northumberland Park after he had defeated Cyril Tolley, the favourite throughout, in the semi-final. It may be recalled that there was an incident which was the subject of much conversation in the championship when he beat Tolley. Sutton had been downy two (two up with two holes to play), and after Tolley had won the seventeenth hole the players reached the last green in a snow and hail storm which had laid a thick "carpet" over the whole expanse of the course. As Sutton on the last green carefully stepped over and clear of the line of Mr. Tolley's putt, a piece of frozen snow unfortunately fell to the ground from the heel of his shoe. Tolley asked the referee if he might remove the piece of ice-snow from his line of play, and after a three-cornered conversation between the players and the referee Tolley eventually failed with his putt to win the hole and keep the match alive, the obstacle the while being allowed to remain on the ground.

Sutton and Tolley.

"I am not concerned with class distinction, I am only concerned with the game—the playing of the game—and my record as a player," said Sutton yesterday. "However, I am disappointed at not having been included in the sixteen best players in Great Britain. I beat Tolley by a hole in the English championship at Newcastle-on-Tyne last April, and I lost to him in the British amateur championship in June, so that it would appear that there is practically nothing between us."

Sutton said that he had been playing in championship golf for four years. During that time he had not been subjected to any considerations of class distinction. On the contrary, he had been treated very fairly. The fellow-artisans of Sutton share his surprise at his non-consideration for a place against America, and within the past few days there have been many protesting sentiments in conversations in the clubhouse.

Mr. Crosbie, the secretary of the West Cheshire Artisans' Golf Club, yesterday expressed the opinion that Sutton had been omitted from the list of sixteen players on grounds other than his playing ability. "It is class distinction such as this," he said, "that sent Willie Hunter and Abe Mitchell into the professional ranks, and T. P. Perkins to America." Hunter, it will be remembered, won the amateur championship of 1921, and shortly afterwards took up a professional golf post in the United States. While in England he was a Post Office employee at Deal. Mitchell was runner-up in the amateur championship of 1912, and very soon afterwards he became a golf professional. He had been a gardener and a chauffeur. Perkins won the amateur championship of 1928, and last year there were some regrettable incidents when he was defending his title. At that time he had expressed his intention of taking a bill-broker's position in New York.

Sutton won the Cheshire amateur championship in 1926 and 1927, and in recognition of his feat he was elected an honorary member of the West Cheshire Club. He beat Dr. William Tweddell in the Cheshire v. Worcester match at Hoylake in 1927, the year that Dr. Tweddell won the amateur championship, and halved his match with Noel Martin, a British internationalist, in the match between England and Ireland at Royal Lytham and St. Annes in September last.