

# Vardon and Ray Meet Hagen and Barnes Over Course at Eastern Point

On July 26 the "Big Four"—Vardon, Ray, Hagen, and Barnes—will meet for the first time in this country. They will play a four-ball match on the Shennecossett links, Eastern Point, New London. Vardon and Ray are sailing from England July 7 and will reach this country in time to begin their tour at Siwanoy Sunday, the 18th. Hagen and Barnes may sail on the same ship; they are scheduled to arrive about the 17th. The former, on their last tour of America in 1912, played fifty-three matches and lost only one match and that was to Alec and Macdonald Smyth at Wykegill.

## Hagen Youngest of Quartet.

Hagen is the youngest of the four players, 27 years old, and practically a newcomer. He has won the open title of America twice and every title in this country at some time or other where professionals were eligible. Like Vardon and Ray, Barnes is an Englishman by birth, but came over here many years ago and because he has learned all his golf in the United States, is considered an American player. He has never landed the national title, but has won many open events. He is the western champion and won the southern title last fall. He is considered the best partner that could be selected for Hagen.

## Ideal for Match,

The Shennecossett links was chosen for several reasons as an ideal place to hold the first exhibition match. It is a sporty course and therefore a good test. The man that goes around it in seventy-one is playing golf. It is a combination inland and seaside course, running down to within 300 yards of the sound at the fifteenth tee and crossing the railroad inland at the second hole. The first, fifth and seventh are elbow holes. This year forty-five new traps have been put in and yet this does not penalize the ordinary player, although it will penalize the long player if he drives off the line right or left. The links are accessible from New York, Boston and all parts of New England where golf-links abound and golfers flock by thousands.

Shennecossett is an ideal place for a large gallery and it is expected that fully 2,500 will follow this match. The links at Eastern Point have frequently been compared to St. Andrews, Scotland, "the mother-course of golf," the historic and picturesque links wherefrom the terrace beyond the last green may be seen the Highlands with their snow-capped mountains in the distance and the nearer view affords glimpses of the old gray town beloved of Scot and Englishmen alike. The American course is a little shorter, but is well over the championship distance.