



## **S.T.R.I. DIRECTOR RETIRES**

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**Thirty-four  
years service**

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Mr. Robert Brian Dawson, Director of the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley, is to retire at the end of the year when he will have reached his 60th birthday. Born in Northern Ireland of Yorkshire parents, Mr. Dawson was educated at Campbell College, Belfast and William Hulme's Grammar School, Manchester. He graduated at Manchester University in 1925 with honours in General Science and in the year following he did post graduate work. From 1926 until 1929 he was on the staff of the Rothamsted Experimental Station in Hertfordshire, where his early work led to an M.Sc. degree. It was then that he was appointed first Director of the newly formed Institute at Bingley, which position he has held ever since. During the war years Mr. Dawson succeeded in keeping the Station in being with a skeleton staff which, however, devoted much of its energies to food production. This did ensure that with the return of staff in the immediate post war period, he was able quickly to put the Institute back

on to a proper basis from which it has continued to grow.

Mr. Dawson is an internationally recognised authority on sports turf and has broadcast several times on sound and television. It is largely due to his untiring efforts over the years that the Institute has acquired an international reputation which results in its officers being called upon to visit and advise throughout the British Isles and Europe.

Mr. Dawson was awarded the O.B.E. in the 1956 Honours List. He has written several books on turf culture including one which is in its fifth edition and of which a "pirate" edition has been published in Russia.

Married, with three daughters and a son, Mr. Dawson will spend his retirement in Bingley and as a newly created Vice-President of the Institute he will retain a keen interest in its activities.

He will be succeeded by Mr. J. R. Escritt, M.Sc., who has been associated with him for several years, latterly as Assistant Director.