

Canadians Close Uneventful Season

BY J. H. EVANS
Golf Editor, Toronto Globe

AFTER a season which opened in April and might proceed for some weeks longer, for Canadian winters are becoming shorter in the more settled portions of the Dominion as each year passes, the Canadian greenkeeper has concluded his work for the year and retires to his home to give thought to the problems which may arise in 1930.

The season for golf in Canada might be longer, but for the fact that the clubhouses in Canada close in October, and as a consequence there is no army of discriminating golfers demanding a perfectly groomed course for their favorite pastime. From habit rather than necessity, club committees have shortened the season as far as the greenkeeper is concerned by bringing all matches to an end on October

1 and closing club houses by October 15, although beyond minor frosts and occasional rain there has been no necessity for it during a decade.

Paradoxically, 1929 was an anxious but uneventful year. It opened auspiciously, continued with normal conditions prevailing until June and then came the drought extending from coast to coast broken only occasionally by showers. The drought caused anxious moments, continued until October, but fortunately it left nothing in its wake.

Canadian Golf Makes Record

A RECORD for the game since it became a sport engaging the interest and the attention of thousands, was made during the season. On many courses in central Ontario,



CANADIAN GREENKEEPERS VISIT ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

This picture was taken during a visit to the Ontario Agricultural college, Guelph, and to the course which Arthur Cutten is building for his native city. Among the figures in the group are: Front row, Charles Evans Jr., Chicago; Edward Mason, secretary, Lambton club, Toronto; J. Cameron, secretary, Scarboro club, Toronto; Howard Lloyd, course superintendent, Rosedale, Toronto; William J. Sansom, Toronto Golf club; Professor Tomlinson, Guelph; C. Wright, seed expert of the Dominion Government. Secretaries and greenkeepers of other clubs are also in the group.

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in western Canada and the east course, superintendents and their workmen were employed without interruption from June until October. On one course there was a half day lost in four months, (the Sabbath excepted) during this period. Similar records are to be found on the calendars of other greenkeepers.

Following his work of the spring, summer and fall with lecture courses at which the speakers were experts from Dominion and Provincial governments for the past six years, the greenkeeper may not pursue the same policy this winter. In an age, given over to the scientist, lock, stock and barrel, it may not be wise to criticize him and emphasize the eminent position held by Canadian greenkeepers working largely in a practical manner. But this may be the reason why the Canadian greenkeeper is considering the advisability of abandoning the annual winter lecture course, and why active members of the association will prefer to meet their fellows at the National Greenkeepers Convention in Louisville, Ky.

The brief history of the organized greenkeeper is illuminating. Six years ago, some

greenkeepers formed an association for the general welfare of the calling. The association depended on bulletins secured from the United States government, periodicals and a great amount of practical knowledge. The ensuing year, the greenkeeper was adopted by the Royal Canadian Golf association and guided by an expert when he exchanged his views at monthly round table conferences. The expert was salaried by popular appeal to the mass of golfers.

Expert Advice is Dropped

THE appeal failed to produce the desired results the next season, so the expert passed out of the picture, probably because golfers could not understand the necessity for his existence. The greenkeeper continued to carry on in a highly successful manner with occasional reference to an agricultural college for a report on a doubtful matter.

"We do not get much from them," is the frequently expressed opinion of the greenkeeper in response to the query as to the value of the lecture course and the well-meant advice

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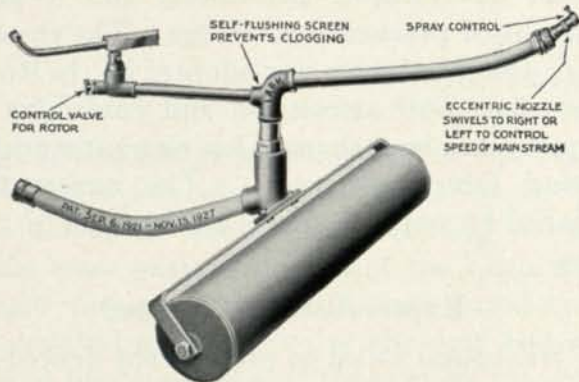
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of the expert. Perhaps it is the reason why the club secretary in many parts of Canada depends on the practical knowledge of the greenkeeper, and the greenkeeper has come to realize that constant association with his fellows is the sounder manner to develop his profession.

From the point of view of the greenkeeper, there has been little substantial development in the game in 1929. Two courses which will offer employment were built during the year. One is the gift of Athur Cutten, Chicago multi-millionaire to his native city Guelph, which with the hotel that Mr. Cutten is building in the city involves an outlay of \$1,000,000. The course, modern in every respect, was laid out by Charles Evans, Jr., and should be open in 1930.

The second course is the Royal York, in Toronto, built to accommodate guests at the Royal York hotel which will open also in 1930. Mr. Cutten's gift to Guelph is expected to be the leading test not located in Toronto, Hamilton and Montreal and to fulfil the wants of golfers in the smaller cities and towns of central Ontario.

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