

some width. The club was influenced in its decision to tighten up its course by the appeal of the Royal York course to golfers, and also by a desire to relieve the monotonous aspect of its course from the upper portions.

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While Mr. Thompson's work finds favor, George Cumming, dean of Canadian professionals, has been called on to apply his extensive experience to courses in Ontario and Quebec. Cumming is concluding work on a course at London, Ont.

Before departing for the fall meeting of the executive committee of the National Greenkeepers' association which was held in New York city, Vice-president Sansom announced that the first winter meeting of the Ontario greenkeepers' association would be held in December and that these meetings would be held monthly until greenkeepers resumed work on their courses in April. Reports from his colleagues are that work has been finished for the year.



Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

FROM present indications it would seem that the widely-publicised Southern California mid-winter golf tournaments are not going to be so famous this year because several of them are not going to materialize. Two or three have been abandoned primarily because of the local professional golfers' association demanding that ten per cent of the prize money to be offered in the individual tournaments be turned over to the association. Just why the professionals should have chosen to do this, especially at this time, is not quite clear to the writer, but it would seem to be very much of a tactical blunder.

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In spite of the fact that statesmen insist that the nation's economic status is basically sound, even the most optimistic will have to admit that money is a little harder to get at the present time than usual. It is only to be expected that the various clubs are feeling the pinch of the economic pressure and are only too willing to seize any excuse to curtail all expenses. The ultimatum of the professional golfers coming as it did at this time, therefore, was predestined to meet with but little favor among the paying golfers, regardless of the right or wrong of the situation from the pro's standpoint.

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Added to this is another angle: many of the attendant evils of large open and invitational tournaments have been such as to dampen the enthusiasm of club officials, and one or two clubs in this locality have been seeking an opening to eliminate the tournaments on this account alone. With no intention of making derogatory remarks about the professional golfers themselves, there is a feeling current in many sections of the coast that the camp followers of famous golfers constitute an

evil to be eliminated if possible. Self-appointed personal caddies and just plain bums and hangers on flock to wherever a tournament of any size is being played, for purposes never fully to be determined by casual observation. Suffice it to say that the percentage of petty thefts and other discrepancies around a golf course is never so great as when a tournament is being held.

* * *

As far as the greenkeepers are concerned, it must be admitted that most of them lifted their voices in prayerful praise when the Virginia Country club of Long Beach, California, started all the excitement by calling

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off its annual tournament rather than give in to the demand of the Professional Golfers' association. Tournaments mean work and expense for them, two items they have been ordered to avoid as one would avoid the plague. Tourneys call forth a terrific amount of wear and tear on tees, fairways, and greens, so that the greenkeepers will not be the ones to be heard mourning if big competitions are never held again. And if rain comes in the course of the matches, as it frequently does, the red ink on the ledger assumes an even brighter hue.

* * *

Speaking of rainfall, and who does not, Southern California has had practically no rain this season as yet in spite of the fact that scientists and Indian prophets have forecasted deluges for a decade. Jupiter Pluvius evidently has not been notified of the predictions. At any rate the greenkeepers in the south are plying water as they have been plying it day and night since about last March.

* * *

Last month it was mentioned in this column that the botany department of the University of Southern California was preparing to come to the aid of the greenkeeper. Now another department of the same institution has declared itself for the fray. Dr. Wilfred W. Scott of the Trojan chemistry department was searching for a field of possible activity, when he happened to look at his lawn. And right there he found a topic staring him in the face and encroaching upon every bit of territory where it could find the suspicion of a foothold—Bermuda grass. Immediately he set one of his graduate students to work upon the problem, and thousands of lawn owners of this territory can assure him that it will be a hard one. The university chemists are approaching the problem from the standpoint of Bermuda's inability to grow in acid soil and are trying to determine the exact amount of acid required to kill the weed and permit the other grasses to grow?

* * *

There is one serious difficulty to this approach which has been demonstrated on the greens of the United

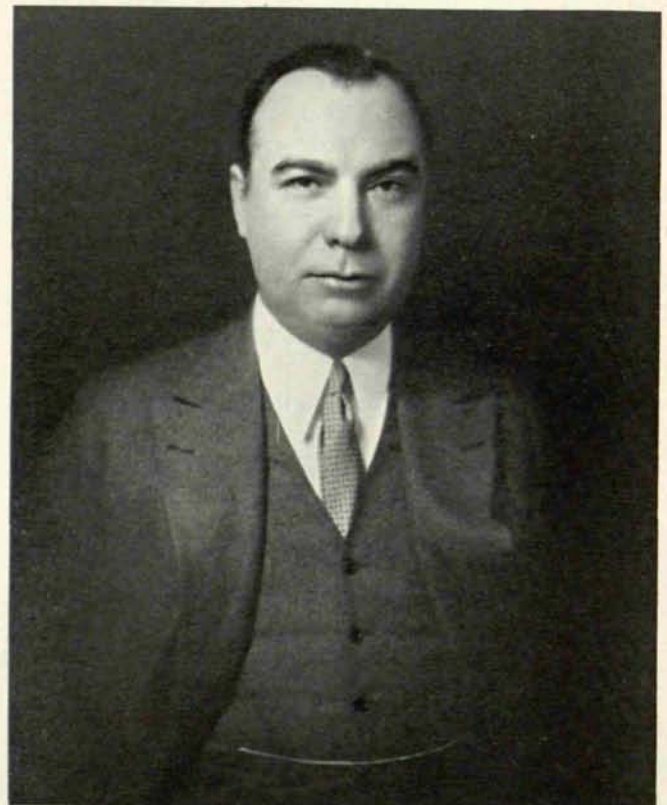
States; that is, acid soil is a prolific field for the development of brown patch, possibly because the condition of the soil weakens the plants. At any rate, after the application of acid forming fertilizers it became necessary to apply large quantities of lime in order to stop its formation and so prevent the ravages of brown patch. Nevertheless legions of greenkeepers will pray for the success of the S. C. scientists.

Columbus is Alive

THE Central Ohio District Golf Association Green Section held their meeting November 12 at the Elks' Club, Columbus, and it was well attended. Colonel John Morley addressed the gathering with a wonderful talk which was well received.

Fred A. Burkhardt took the floor and assured the success of the Greenkeepers' Show from the fact that nearly all the space in the auditorium had been sold and that he expected big things in Columbus this time and believed this would be a howling success.

Jos. Williamson spoke on the advantages of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America and the benefits to its members through the educational program and from the writers to its magazine the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER with the result that five new members were signed from this district and we are happily looking forward to a bigger and better show when we again join hands and swap ideas in the capital city of Ohio.



H. H. RAMSEY

Nominated for President of the United States Golf Association for 1931. Mr. Ramsey is a member of the Creek Club on Long Island and has been Secretary and Vice President of the U. S. G. A. since 1925