

Canadian News

By J. H. EVANS, *Golf Editor, Toronto Globe*

GREENKEEPERS and course superintendents of eastern Canada, particularly, are awaiting with some interest the first effort to be put forward by the Royal Canadian Golf association toward the development of a Green section.

In January, the golf association, after some discussion, formulated its program with considerable detail, and let it be known that there would be quarterly bulletins of value to the clubs to be issued before spring, the summer and the fall set in. Then a month ago it followed this with an announcement that the first bulletin would be issued within a few days.

With spring disappearing, the first bulletin of the Royal Canadian Golf association to be prepared by its committee of four laymen and then issued with the approval of the Federal department of Agriculture, has not yet made its appearance. If it has, greenkeepers have not seen it, nor been given an opportunity to study its contents.

Apart from the general interest which practical men may have in what may be suggested by laymen as a means of developing a Green section and educating greenkeepers in course maintenance, greenkeepers are also interested because they will in all likelihood at a meeting in June consider the advisability of seeking incorporation from the Federal Government.

A Federal charter might be construed in some quarters, on account of the powers it contains, as giving the greenkeeper the power which the Royal Canadian Golf association has conferred on itself through its second attempt at organizing a Green section, on this occasion with the cooperation of Provincial organizations.

Four laymen of Ontario and as many more of Quebec are to be responsible for the bulletin and the assistance which the association will provide to member clubs. None of these laymen in Ontario has as yet shown a disposition to supplement his knowledge of grass seeds, fertilizer and equipment by consultation with experienced course superintendents.

"A bulletin might be of some assistance to greenkeepers of the lesser known clubs. It might be of assistance if it had been issued some weeks ago when spring was commencing," was the observation made by W. J. Sansom, president of the Ontario Greenkeepers' association, after he and Bert Hawkins, secretary of the association, had been unsuccessful in their endeavors at locating a bulletin. "But if it does not appear before the spring season is through it can't be of much value until another spring sets in and then only if the conditions are identical."

The monthly meeting of the Ontario association was to have been held early in May, but was postponed on account of the amount of work which was engaging the attention of members. However, arrangements have been made for the June meeting, and at this gathering steps are expected to be taken toward securing the Federal charter.

The Provincial charter under which the Ontario association was secured was carefully scrutinized by the Provincial Secretary. On account of the scope of Federal charter it is believed that the Secretary of State will study the purposes of the greenkeepers' association with considerable care, perhaps to learn if it might become a labor organization at some time or another or a combine in restraint of trade.

A Federal charter would permit those securing it to operate from coast to coast. It would be far reaching, indeed, and those greenkeepers to whom it was granted might, with not a great deal of effort expand their association to a point whereby they would be recognized as the organization responsible for the education of the greenkeeper and thus it could easily come into conflict with the Royal Canadian Golf association or any other body with similar aims. Only a useful purpose would be served by any conflict, because the powers that be in golf who must sooner or later recognize the position of the greenkeeper.

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There is some doubt whether the greenkeepers' association will hold another golf show this summer. Reasons given for the possibility of deferring an exhibition of equipment just after the Canadian National Exhibition when manufacturers will have their machinery in Toronto are the costs associated with a show and the fact that there is not much change in the character of machinery. Otherwise the program of the association will consist of monthly meetings until the season comes to an end as guests of clubs of the Province.

The climatic conditions leave little to be desired. Early April weather was well nigh perfect, but toward the close of the month it became cold with some minor frosts which did little damage, however. A little care and attention to greens and the appearance of warm weather repaired any loss which any club might have suffered. With little to concern him, the greenkeeper can devote his time toward the perfection of his organization.

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