

Canadian News

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

SOLONS of golf met in Toronto at the National Club on April 16 to discuss the problems of course maintenance in Canada. They discussed these problems after they had visited the Mississauga Golf and Country Club where the open championship of Canada will be contested.

They dealt with the problems which are wide and varied, but fortunately this year will not be intricate or serious, due to the experience accumulated by the greenkeeper and course superintendent who has applied the scientific and the practical with marked success as he went about his work.

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Alfred Collyer, twice president of the Royal Canadian Golf Association, Norman Scott and George H. Forster, all of Montreal; L. M. Wood, Gordon T. Casels, W. H. Plant and Secretary B. L. Anderson, all of Montreal composed the committee which met at the Mississauga club to talk with greenkeeper Joseph Stansfield about his course and then proceed to a down-town club to discuss the maintenance of the course.

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The absence of Second Vice-President W. J. Sansom and other prominent course superintendents from the meeting which was the first since the Royal Canadian Golf association decided again to carry on a Green section with the help of the Federal Government on this occasion was noted by golfers and focussed attention on the work which the association hopes to carry on with success.

Several years ago, the association endeavored to build up a Green section with an expert at its head and the collective support of golfers behind it. When it collapsed the greenkeepers' organization filled the breach acceptably.

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In view of past experience, the hope is now expressed that the association will find some means of including the

organized greenkeeper in its council and thus secure the ripe, practical experience required if a Green section is to be operated successfully. The association sought the blessing of the greenkeeper when it launched its second attempt, but now it apparently prefers to proceed without a valuable ally.

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The initial contribution of the Royal Canadian Golf Association's Green section will be the distribution of a series of bulletins prepared by the Federal Department of Agriculture, carrying the views of a committee of golfers, on turf for sports use. They will go to each club of the association where the chairman of the Green committee, the secretary, or the greenkeeper may peruse them and extract therefrom that which may be of value. There is every likelihood that the majority of course superintendents and greenkeepers are acquainted with the turf required for sports use. It is said the Federal Government will recommend only four types of bent grass.

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It was pointed out that the arrangement between the Federal Government and the Royal Canadian Golf association whereby plots are to be established and bulletins issued is that experiments must be left to the Department of Agriculture. It was felt that the work of the association might be more comprehensive and greater benefits might accrue if the government might permit experimental work. But if it permitted experimental work, someone must carry them on that someone would in all likelihood be the high practical greenkeeper.

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For the first time in many years, there is little to concern the Canadian greenkeeper unless it be the effect of the world-wide depression which will place some limit upon the amount to be spent in course maintenance. At the same time, it will give him a proportionately greater opportunity to display his ability.

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There has been golf in eastern Canada during March, but April has generally been cold with its snowfall and



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its frosts and its consequences. One of the heaviest snow-falls in many years occurred on March 6. It was followed by mild weather. It was just what the greenkeeper desired as he outlined his plans for the year. Before the end of the month the snow had disappeared.

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The prevailing conditions are best revealed in the fact that there was no surface water toward the end of the month on any course, while those courses built on clay were dry and fit for play with every hole open early in April. The conditions are exemplified also in the fact that none of the rivers overflowed, an almost annual occurrence accompanied by heavy damage. The Mississauga club was probably the most fortunate from this point of view. A rapidly flowing stream fifty yards wide flows through the course. As it overflowed its banks, the river deposited boulders and clay. This year, as it is preparing for the open championship of Canada, the club has been saved the expense in cleaning up its course.

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Several clubs are installing water system over all fairways to provide protection against drought. The decision to provide courses with this necessary protection is perhaps the outstanding development of the year. Obviously only the wealthier clubs are laying down systems for the entire course.

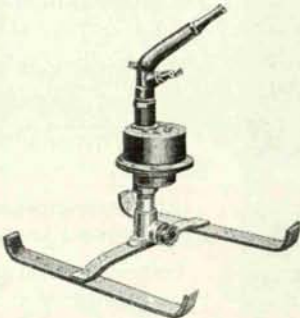
"We should have our best season. There isn't anything to concern us. Not in many years have conditions been so consistently good," said Mr. Sansom in summing up the outlook for 1931.

Mid-West Notes

By A. L. BRANDON, *Secretary*

ST. ANDREWS golf club, near West Chicago will be the scene of the first Mid-West outdoor meet of the 1931 season. This meet will be held on Monday, April 27. These monthly outdoor meetings will be held on the last

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Monday of each month at different clubs throughout our district, so take heed of the day and govern yourself accordingly.

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Doctor Roth will be on hand to welcome us—remember when "Doc" used to act as toastmaster at the old J. Oliver Johnson yearly banquets.

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The Mid-West Greenkeepers' Association is considering changing its name. We wish to have a name which will be more descriptive and fitting for the type of work



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