

Green Section Plans to Extend Research Team-work

By **FIELDING WALLACE**
(Chairman Green Section Committee USGA)

FIELDING WALLACE, chairman, Green Section committee, USGA, has given an outline of the Green Section's postwar plans and told of the work being done by the Section in preparing for golf maintenance and construction work that is expected to boom with the arrival of peace. Mr. Wallace's statement was made in a letter to district and state amateur associations and to greenkeeper organizations.

The Green Section chairman asked for the vigorous cooperation of all organizations concerned with golf course maintenance in getting the plans set for effective handling of postwar course problems. The program involves coordination of regional research in answer to suggestions and requests by greenkeepers and chairmen which frequently have been mentioned in GOLFDOM.

Mr. Wallace wrote:

"I should like to remind you at this time of the Green Section's services which are available to all clubs which are members of the United States Golf Association and to solicit your interest and participation in our proposed national turf program to be based on regional investigations.

"Although wartime curtailments have necessitated drastic reductions in the Green Section's budget and in the technical staff employed, we are continuing to serve our member clubs as completely as is possible by correspondence, as well as through our publication, *Timely Turf Topics*. As has been in the past, the Green Section is in a position to identify or have identified disease, weed, insect or other turf pests from specimens sent to the Beltsville office. Because of its location in the vicinity of Washington and our close collaboration there with the Department of Agriculture it is possible for the Green Section staff to confer with specialists in any and all of these fields and to obtain the most recent recommendations for their control where it has been impossible to date for the Green Section itself to study control methods in turf. Facilities are also available for the testing of soil samples and recommendations can be made on the basis of results of such tests. For all of these recommendations as well as recommendations on various other aspects of turf maintenance the

present Green Section staff has at its command a wealth of information which has accumulated as a result of the investigational work conducted by the Green Section during the last quarter of a century. Timely information concerning turf maintenance problems is published periodically in *Timely Turf Topics*, two copies of which are available to each member club.

"At present the Green Section is attempting to anticipate the problems which will face the golf courses in the postwar period as a result of the necessarily curtailed maintenance programs during the war and to develop new ways and means of solving their problems after the war, when clubs once more have labor and materials available for the resumption of their standard maintenance practices. One of the efforts in this direction is the increase of available stock of stolons of superior creeping bent strains. These strains have been selected and propagated by the Green Section over a period of many years and in the past 4 or 5 years have been tested on experimental greens in many sections of the country. As published in the June *Timely Turf Topics*, some of these have proven decidedly superior to the commercial strains, Washington and Metropolitan. Since, however, these strains are not available commercially the Green Section is this summer increasing the stock of stolons so that any member club which may be looking forward to the use of one or more of these strains after the war when greens may have to be reestablished can obtain limited supplies for planting and propagation in their own turf nurseries.

"Postwar plans are being developed now for a turf program more national in scope than has been the case in the past. The program will be based on regional investigations in diverse sections of the country which will be carried out cooperatively between the golf clubs and their greenskeepers on the one hand, various state experimental stations or agricultural colleges on the other, with the Green Section acting as a focal point to which the results from regional investigations may converge for correlation and from which suggestions may radiate in connection with proposed investigations in various

sections of the country. Thus, in this program the function of the Green Section would be to act as a clearing house or a coordinating agency to prevent duplication of effort and to keep each investigating group informed as to what other groups are doing which should be of interest to them. Moreover, the Green Section staff would thus be able to fit together the results from various sections of the country into one over-all picture which will be more significant to all concerned than numerous isolated findings in as many individual sections of the country.

"Work in this direction has already been initiated at two experiment stations on a formal basis and informally (that is, without contribution of Green Section funds) at several other institutions. In the fall of 1942 cooperative work was initiated at the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station in order that the Green Section might contribute to working out solutions to greenkeeping problems in New England. Only recently the second step has been taken in the allocation of funds to make possible a survey of the turf diseases in Florida. It is hoped that this survey may act as a working basis for a program of investigation on the control of turf diseases in Florida. It is also hoped that cooperative studies on insect control, particularly the control of mole crickets may be initiated in that state. Requests for regional investigations in other sections of the country have come to the Green Section and until such time as funds and personnel are available for the initiation of formal cooperative work, cooperative tests of various strains of grasses, fertilizers, and pesticides are being conducted. It is hoped that after the war it will be possible to replace such informal cooperative work with a formal cooperative program and thus establish a well coordinated research program in various sections of the country with the minimum expenditure of time and money.

"We hope that your organization as well as many other state golf associations and local greenkeeping superintendents associations will visualize the potentialities of such a program in the postwar future of golf in this country, to the extent of active participation in it. The cooperation of your and other local golf or greenkeepers organizations may be the necessary stimulus which will make possible a strong, significant program of turf investigations in your region after the war. Perhaps you have already informed us of your active interest. Various groups have done so. Naturally the regions which show the greatest and most active concern for regional assistance from us in their turf problems are those towards which we will direct our earliest efforts as soon as the necessary staff and financial

support are available. In the meantime in some cases it may be possible to initiate or continue informal cooperative tests as indicated above.

"Considering the possible role of your local associations in the present stage of the development of this program, it would seem to me that generally speaking any funds which could be raised locally during the present interim in which our cooperative work will be largely on an informal basis might well be spent in paying the expenses of an experiment station staff member who is both interested and experienced in golf course problems of the region for visits to the interested clubs in your region, provided such travel could be approved by experiment station officials. Such trips made now should serve a 3-fold function—(1) to acquaint the experiment station staff directly and the Green Section indirectly with the problems both present and postwar which are and will be confronting the golf courses in that region; (2) to help form a basis for a postwar series of investigations in the region when manpower and materials are once more available; and (3) to give the clubs as much technical assistance as is possible under present conditions. The Green Section will at all times welcome reports from such trips on the part of the experiment station staff and would be happy to furnish any suggestions for help during this emergency which may be gleaned from the Green Section's activities during the last quarter of a century.

"Either Dr. F. F. Davis in our Beltsville office or I shall be interested in learning from you the reaction of your organization to our plans for a postwar national turf program based on regional investigations."

JIM FLOYD, PRO, DIES—James Floyd, Beacon, N. Y., widely known in Hudson Valley golfing circles, died July 26 following a 4 month illness. He had been pro at the Southern Dutchess and Sir William Johnson clubs and had designed and constructed several courses. He had developed numerous excellent amateur golfers, among them his son, James, Jr.

WAR CLOSES COURSE—Nine-hole, 511 yard, par 25, pitch-and-putt course constructed on factory grounds of the Ilg Electric Co. at Chicago, once possibly the most heavily played industrial golf course in the world, has gone to war. Space formerly used by the course is piled high with Ilg ventilating equipment en route to the Navy and war factories. The nine holes were landscaped by trees and shrubbery the Ilg company founder gathered from many countries.