

Grau to Direct Greens Section's New Program

DR. FRED V. GRAU, State College, Pa., has been elected full time Director of the USGA Green Section, effective August 1st, 1945. Dr. Fanny-Fern Davis, who has ably and faithfully filled the position of Acting Director since 1942 is being relieved of her duties at her urgent request.

Pres. Morton G. Bogue of the USGA, and Field Wallace, ch., USGA Green Section Committee, say:

"In our judgment we are indeed fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Grau, who, some years ago, was connected with our Washington Office. In 1931 he received his B. Sc. degree from the University of Nebraska, where he had his first job working his way through college caring for the Green Section turf plots. He was graduated from the University of Maryland in 1935 with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Agriculture. Since 1935 he has been Extension Agronomist at the Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa. He was a member of the Fourth International Grassland Congress Tour to Europe in 1937. From June 1942 he served one year as consultant to the War Department, U.S.E.D., on grassing of airfields. He is 43 years old, his hobbies are golf, farming, photography and grasses. Being an enthusiastic believer in the future of the USGA Green Section, he is confident that we can serve member clubs more efficiently and satisfactorily than ever before. It is our fixed determination under his leadership to make our service so valuable to the golf clubs that no club of consequence can afford not to be a member of the USGA.

"Dr. Grau believes that the future of Turf depends to a large extent upon the following factors:

"The education of more young men in fundamentals of grass growing.

"The production of adequate supplies of planting material from disease-and-insect-resistant strains of grass with desirable turf-forming qualities.

"Selective weed control.

"Expanded research at, and service from, regional state experimental stations with moral and financial encouragement from the USGA Green Section.

"Developing the true interdependence of turf and forage crop work in which so many identical species and principles are involved.

"During the past year the Green Section has increased its program of service to member clubs in spite of the still drastically limited technical staff and seriously curtailed budget.

"In addition to conducting a steadily mounting advisory service the Green Section has increased the vegetative stock of many of its superior strains of grasses in order to make them available to any member clubs which are interested in using them. In this connection, if your club is interested in using any of these strains of creeping bent on your putting greens when you recondition your course after the war, you might find it advisable to obtain this year planting material of one or more of them from the Green Section office at Beltsville, in order to establish your own stolon nursery. The stolons from 1 square foot are sufficient to plant 100 feet of nursery row which, in turn under good cultural practices, should be from 4 to 7 feet wide within a year and consequently should be sufficient to plant an average green. This is only one direction in which the Green Section has been anticipating the postwar needs of the member clubs.

"Another postwar golf course problem which the Green Section has constructively anticipated has been the question of the control of clover and other weeds which, under necessarily curtailed maintenance programs, have taken over both fairways and greens of many courses. During the past year Dr. Davis has worked tirelessly in order to determine the effectiveness and breadth of applicability of the new weed killing hormone, 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (now commonly known as 2,4-D) to turf weeds in various sections of the country. In order to accomplish this she has been working closely not only with the hormone investigators in the Department of Agriculture but also with many of the leading chemical industries in the United States, testing their proposed formulations of this material both for effectiveness on the weeds and tolerance of the various fairway and putting green grasses. Many

interested clubs have been able to receive from Dr. Davis small lots of material to use in tests on their own weed pests with the understanding that they would keep her informed regarding the results under their respective conditions. The result is that recommendations are ready for the control of such serious turf weeds as clover, dandelion and buckhorn plantain in the north and central sections of the country, and pennywort and *Dichondra* in the south. Moreover, several companies already are marketing this material in various forms, some of which she has demonstrated can be used without injury to all of the grasses except the bents maintained at putting green height.

"A third problem is the ever-present question of fungicides to control turf diseases without injuring the sensitive putting green grasses in summer heat. This search for fungicides which will control the diseases common to bent putting greens without injuring the grass is being conducted in cooperation with Dr. Howard and Mr. Keil in the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station as part of our regional turf program in that Institution. One fungicide which proved outstandingly successful on the test plots last year is now being manufactured in sufficient quantities to make large-scale tests on some 30 different golf courses about the country this year. A wide variety of others are being tested this year on the experiment station grounds in Kingston, Rhode Island.

"This work is only one angle of the cooperative program which has been under way at the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station since the fall of 1942. A study of fertilizer practices best suited for the golf courses in that area, as well as the control of weeds in turf and of weed seeds in compost, has been an important part of the program in Rhode Island since the cooperative work was initiated.

"This cooperation is the first in the direction of developing a strong postwar national turf program on the basis of similar regional cooperative programs in various sections of the country. The development of the Regional Turf Foundation at Purdue University (servicing at least for the time being Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, southern Michigan and southern Wisconsin) has been this year's most significant outgrowth of the idea of the importance of regional investigations in the Green Section's postwar national turf program. Other such centers of turf interest have been expressing their interest to the Green Section and turning to Dr. Davis for advice and suggestions for the development of a turf program in their region.

Harris Course Jobs Show Postwar Boom Signs

★ ROBERT BRUCE HARRIS of Chicago can give evidence that a postwar golf boom is taking substantial form. Golf course architectural and construction jobs which Harris and his organization have under way are in private, public and fee-course fields. Harris says the solid financing of the new jobs is putting the postwar golf development on a basis far firmer than the golf club boom which followed World War I.

Among courses on which Harris is working are:

Bismarck (N. Dak.) CC which is to have a new championship 18-hole course. Among members will be prominent state and local public officials. The development is along Apple Creek east of Bismarck. The new layout will be a fairway watered job with the entire course being of the latest streamlined design. Harris is also designing a swimming pool, tennis courts and parking space for the club. C. J. Reff is president of the club and Wm. J. Lowe, State Game Commissioner, is v.p.

Harris also is making plans for the remodeling of the 18 hole Meadow Lark CC, Great Falls, Mont. Meadow Lark, which is at the junction of the Sun and Missouri Rivers, will be completely revamped. A new fairway watering system will be installed and the entire layout will be modernized. According to Harris, Meadow Lark will be contourscaoped into one of the outstanding courses in the West. J. L. Odette is president of the club. Ralph Meyers is pro. Al Beckman, Great Falls furrier is active in the development.

Harris is planning for a new championship golf course as a part of their famous Iroquois Park. Harris says that the site is ideal for a top notch munny layout. The course will be built under the direction of T. Byrne Morgan, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Leo F. Goss, Supt. of Parks.

Pekin, Ill., Park district is going to increase its popular 9 hole course to an 18 hole layout. Harris is making a topographical survey of the old course plus adjoining land preparatory to planning the new course. Charles I. Kelly, a golf enthusiast is president of the Park Board.

SPALDING ILLUSTRATES SPORTS SHOW—A booklet reproducing the Spalding Sports Show series of illustrated ads has been prepared by A. G. Spalding & Bros. for free distribution. Among many other interesting items the booklet tells that Bobby Jones averaged 30 putts for ten consecutive rounds in 1928. That year Jones won the U. S. Amateur and lost the U. S. Open play-off with Farrell.