

a broad national turf program of cooperative research, education and advisory service. The program is based on cooperation with the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture Bureau of Plant Industry; State agricultural experiment stations; The Greenkeeping Superintendents Assn.; the PGA; and all other groups, including industry, which are vitally interested in turf development. The Green Section will act as a focal point for correlation of projects, for dissemination of results, and as a source of suggestions and many experimental materials.

"Decentralization of the experimental work obviously is wise so that the major problems can be attacked in the sections where they exist. Variations in soils, climate, and species of grasses emphasize the need for this policy. A considerable portion of Green Section funds will be allotted to cooperating institutions where turf research is made a part of their program. By this method, advisory service to member clubs will be greatly expanded.

"We have been informed that many state and district golf associations may have surplus funds which may not be needed for ordinary operations. These funds might be used to assist the Green Section further to expand the Turf Development program, thereby realizing more fully the value of 'Better Turf for Better Golf.' An example of this suggested financial assistance has come to reality only recently. At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the USGA, Richard Tufts, a member of that committee, reported that the Southern Golf Assn. has approved the expenditure of \$2,000 to support the work of the Green Section now being conducted cooperatively with the Georgia Coastal Plain experiment station, Tifton, Ga. This appropriation will be paid to the USGA Green Section at the rate of \$400 a year for 5 years for use at the Tifton Station. We congratulate the Southern Golf Assn. for their foresight and for this action.

"We wish to commend the Georgia State Golf Assn. also. Hugh D. Carter, Jr., Pres.,

has just announced that a contribution from them to the amount of \$500 has been approved for expenditure at the Tifton Station at the rate of \$100 a year for 5 years.

"The Green Section recognizes the need for training more young men in the turf profession and actively is encouraging training programs at state agricultural colleges. The additional work made possible by contributions from golf associations will go far to encourage these training programs.

"Cooperative investigations, supported by USGA Green Section research grants and by new materials, are in progress at several stations, including Rhode Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Purdue, Georgia, and Florida. Additional cooperative work is planned for Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Washington, Oregon and California, as soon as funds and personnel are available.

"It will be appreciated if this letter is brought to the attention of the Executive committee of your golf association, with a request for comments or questions. We shall be pleased to advise you of any recent developments in cooperative work in your area."

#### LITTLEFIELD TO BE RE-ELECTED USGA PRESIDENT

Nominations for 1948 administration of USGA, which are tantamount to election, have been submitted by the USGA Nominating committee, for voting at the association's annual meeting, Jan. 11, Waldorf-Astoria, N. Y.

Charles B. Littlefield, Montclair (N.J.) GC is proposed for re-election as pres. Re-elected as vps. will be Francis Ouimet and Fielding Wallace, as sec., Isaac B. Grainger and as treas., Daniel A. Freeman, Jr. General counsel again will be James H. Douglas, Jr. On the executive committee will be 5 members from the east, 3 from the mid-west, 2 from the Pacific slope and 3 from the south; a division proportionate to USGA membership and in accordance with

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the USGA constitution including at least 6 "selected from present or past officers of governing boards of different state, district or sectional golf associations in the U.S."

Nominating committee consisted of J. Frederic Byers, Edward P. Allis, Paul Farrans, John W. Hughes and Heywood H. Whaples. The 1948 nominating committee will consist of A. M. Reid, William O. Blaney, Keith Conaway, James L. Garard and E. E. Lowrey.

### USGA MAY MAKE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP ALL MATCH PLAY

The USGA is considering a proposal to change the plan for the Amateur championship by making it entirely at match play.

This would eliminate the 36-hole qualifying competition on the first two days. Instead, there would be one 18-hole match play round on each of those days, bringing the field to 64 players. Thereafter, the championship would proceed according to the plan now used, with two 18-hole match rounds on the third day, two 18-hole match rounds on the fourth day, 36-hole semi-finals on the fifth day, and a 36-hole final on the last day.

Players eligible would, as heretofore, be determined by 36-hole stroke play sectional qualifying rounds throughout the country, with former champions exempt.

Before action is taken on the proposal by the USGA Executive Committee, Francis Ouimet, Chairman of the Championship committee, intends to poll the 149 players in the 1948 Amateur championship for their opinions.

If the championship proper were entirely at match play, it would be possible to accommodate as many as 210 competitors. Under the present system, 150 is considered the maximum number who can be conveniently accommodated.

Five of the association's 46 Amateur Championships held thus far have been entirely at match play; those of 1895, 1903, 1934, 1935, and 1936.

### JACK BLACK, ELYRIA PRO, PASSES

—Jack Black, for 17 years pro at Elyria (O.) CC died late in November. Jack was one of the thinning ranks of veteran Scots pros who endeared themselves to American golfers by the cheerful, expert and diligent service they gave to the building of golf in the U. S. In editorial tribute to Jack the Elyria Chronicle-Telegram said, "Literally hundreds of caddies had come under his supervision and through such contacts he had been an influence for good on the lives of many persons." The editorial quoted Neely Powers, pres., Elyria CC:

"To hundreds of men and women in Elyria, and many away from home, the death of Jack Black means the loss of a whimsical

friend, a mentor, a real teacher of the art of golf. Golf isn't easy; the man you expect to play well just doesn't and the woman you expect to be a dub just isn't. The difference is largely a matter of the professional, the teacher.

"Jack Black was more than a golf professional; he was an institution. For 35 years he taught, implored, shot scathing criticism from a pair of twinkling eyes, teased and lifted from their very bootstraps hundreds of youngsters who are now adults and who love to reminisce about the way Jack Black taught them.

"Jack Black was an individual who simply was not aware that any such a thing as difference in birth or class existed. This complete democracy was best illustrated by the remark of a member of the Country Club who said, 'I would rather be cussed by Jack Black than praised by most people.'

"Jack Black belonged to that strong and 'burry voiced' clan of Scotchmen who came over about 36 years ago and whose craftsmanship has left its permanent mark on the finest golf clubs in the United States. Many of the Cleveland area and Eastern clubs were staffed in their golf professional ranks by these men.

"Jack Black never lost the burr of a Scotchman. Sometimes it rasped and raised to a roar at some repetition of golf idiocy of which all are capable; at other times it would purr like a kitten, but when it did, one had better be careful and watch for a whimsical trap.

"One day Jack was asked how it was that so many of them came from the same little towns in Scotland and were such good golfers. His story was illustrative of the man. He would say, 'Why mon, we lived in a one street town and we had one golf ball; the houses were close on both sides; we had to hit the ball straight or we didn't have any golf ball, and we didn't play any more golf.'

"He never lost a friend and the caddies adored him.

"There will be a niche reserved for men of Jack's kind. Those strong compatriots of his, those long, gaunt, reserved and laconic Scotchmen will gather together in Valhalla where the fairways are narrow and green, the traps deep and overhung, the streams cool and gurgling, the rough deep and tough and they will hit them far and straight, and comment dryly that this is the life eternal where there are no dubs, no green-committee chairmen, where par is normal play and where champions foregather for strong living and good play."

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## SUPPLIES and EQUIPMENT?

Reliable sources are ready to serve you. See page 61.

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