

# Canadian News

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

**J**OSEPH STANSFIELD, course superintendent at the Mississauga Golf and Country Club, Toronto, has drawn an assignment of considerable proportions for 1931. It's a job that few greenkeepers envy and was provided for him when the Royal Canadian Golf association selected Stansfield's course as the scene of the next Canadian open golf championship in preference to Lakeview, Toronto, and several other popular courses in Ontario.

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Stansfield's job is of magnitude on account of the peculiar location of the Mississauga course. To quote W. J. Sansom, president of the Ontario Greenkeepers' association, no course in eastern Canada presents as many problems as Mississauga, although it may be the most picturesque of courses particularly in the fall of the year when the maples are turning after the early frosts.

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The Mississauga course was laid out 25 years ago along the banks of the Credit river, a stream of some width which was navigable some distance from Lake Ontario within the past 40 years. A portion of the course is laid out on the banks and hills above the stream, while other holes have been built on flats about the river. A mild winter will be a blessing to Stansfield, but severe weather and heavy snowfall is bound to add to the task which the club has thrust on his shoulders.

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The flats of the Mississauga course have been flooded frequently, in fact annually to greater or lesser extent when the Credit river broke up. These floods have deposited gravel, silt and clay over the fairways and on one occasion many laborers were required to remove it. At the same time great cakes of ice have destroyed portions of the fairway bordering the stream. If the Credit river goes out in a peaceful fashion, then Mr. Stansfield's job on behalf of a club obtaining its first major tournament will be simplified, but otherwise he might be left with ten weeks to prepare his course.

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Until 1928, the Mississauga course was regarded as old fashioned. When it was revamped under the direction of Stanley Thompson, it was slightly over 6,000 yards in length. It was a course on which the average professional might be expected to break 70. The revamping of the course added 500 yards. The distance was secured

by clearing away swamp land and although the work was done during the fall of 1928, it was not until the fall of 1929 that the lengthened course was opened for play. Some difficulty was experienced in whipping the additional portion of the course into shape, largely on account of the conditions which prevailed in the spring.

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Members of the club were assured by Mr. Thompson when he laid out the new holes that the club would have a very fine test; something which might be compared with pride to championship courses of the United States. The well known professionals of the American continent who annually patronize the Canadian open championship may discover that such is the case, and if so it will be due to the labor of Stansfield and his men. Stansfield has installed a watering system along some of the fairways and may add a few traps about some of the greens.

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The Hamilton Golf and Country Club's course, a lightly trapped test, was chosen for the 1930 championship. The prediction was made that par would be broken with regularity. The prediction was correct for many professionals turned in cards in the 60's, while Tommy Armour entered into a play-off with Leo Diegel with a 65 for his final round. Armour and his confreres should have no more difficulty in meeting the requirements of the Mississauga course than they experienced at Hamilton.

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Stanley Thompson's work which can be found on many courses in Canada and on some courses in the Eastern states has found favor with golfers generally. Mr. Thompson built the courses of the Canadian National railways when Sir Henry Thornton decided that golf could be related to transportation and also the courses of the Canadian Pacific railway. Mr. Thompson's work in many instances contains copies of outstanding holes on courses in the British Isles and the United States.

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Thompson was recently engaged by the Lambton Golf and Country Club to bunker its course in spots along the lines of the work done at the Royal York, where greens are capacious and traps are large. The Lambton course, like Mississauga, is built on flats along a stream of

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some width. The club was influenced in its decision to tighten up its course by the appeal of the Royal York course to golfers, and also by a desire to relieve the monotonous aspect of its course from the upper portions.

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While Mr. Thompson's work finds favor, George Cumming, dean of Canadian professionals, has been called on to apply his extensive experience to courses in Ontario and Quebec. Cumming is concluding work on a course at London, Ont.

Before departing for the fall meeting of the executive committee of the National Greenkeepers' association which was held in New York city, Vice-president Sansom announced that the first winter meeting of the Ontario greenkeepers' association would be held in December and that these meetings would be held monthly until greenkeepers resumed work on their courses in April. Reports from his colleagues are that work has been finished for the year.



## Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

FROM present indications it would seem that the widely-publicised Southern California mid-winter golf tournaments are not going to be so famous this year because several of them are not going to materialize. Two or three have been abandoned primarily because of the local professional golfers' association demanding that ten per cent of the prize money to be offered in the individual tournaments be turned over to the association. Just why the professionals should have chosen to do this, especially at this time, is not quite clear to the writer, but it would seem to be very much of a tactical blunder.

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In spite of the fact that statesmen insist that the nation's economic status is basically sound, even the most optimistic will have to admit that money is a little harder to get at the present time than usual. It is only to be expected that the various clubs are feeling the pinch of the economic pressure and are only too willing to seize any excuse to curtail all expenses. The ultimatum of the professional golfers coming as it did at this time, therefore, was predestined to meet with but little favor among the paying golfers, regardless of the right or wrong of the situation from the pro's standpoint.

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Added to this is another angle: many of the attendant evils of large open and invitational tournaments have been such as to dampen the enthusiasm of club officials, and one or two clubs in this locality have been seeking an opening to eliminate the tournaments on this account alone. With no intention of making derogatory remarks about the professional golfers themselves, there is a feeling current in many sections of the coast that the camp followers of famous golfers constitute an

evil to be eliminated if possible. Self-appointed personal caddies and just plain bums and hangers on flock to wherever a tournament of any size is being played, for purposes never fully to be determined by casual observation. Suffice it to say that the percentage of petty thefts and other discrepancies around a golf course is never so great as when a tournament is being held.

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As far as the greenkeepers are concerned, it must be admitted that most of them lifted their voices in prayerful praise when the Virginia Country club of Long Beach, California, started all the excitement by calling

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