

Canadian News

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

VISITING the Royal York golf course in Toronto to view the result of the Royal Canadian Golf association's initial attempt at establishing a green section which would serve the needs of golf clubs and their course employees, members of the Greenkeepers' Association of Ontario this month brought their activities for 1931 to an end.

During the past season Mr. Sansom and members of the association visited many clubs in Ontario and went over numerous courses. In a number of instances they were able to render valuable service to greenkeepers who had encountered trouble and with limited means at their disposal were endeavoring to solve their problems.

What was observed during the spring and summer by greenkeepers during their periodic visits will furnish topics of discussion for the monthly meetings and forums of the association to commence in November when there will be little left to engage the attention of members of the association on their courses.

Greenkeepers and course superintendents have been compelled to bear a heavier burden during the past year than in many years. First, there was the excessive heat of midsummer and conditions which left in their wake brown patch, something rarely encountered for unknown reasons in the Dominion. Then the greenkeeper commenced to feel the effect of the business depression which observers predicted would disappear as the year went on, but instead continued with more serious effects. The obvious occurred and as a result more than one greenkeeper was compelled to economize and to secure results by the use of his experience.

In view of natural conditions which offered much to contend with—more than usual—and the business depression which forced economies on clubs, the condition of the courses as the playing season comes to an end is a striking tribute to the greenkeeper. Frequently officials of clubs are prone to overlook the part which the greenkeeper plays and is playing in golf of the Dominion, but 1931 more than other seasons has shown in dollars and cents that he has justified his increased prominence.

The Ontario Greenkeepers' association can now depend upon two agencies to assist it with its work. One is the Royal Canadian Golf association, which was able to establish its experimental stations with the assistance of the Federal Government. The full value of the experimental station will be known in 1932.

Sixty-eight varieties of grass were placed in plots

early in September at the Royal York course and when greenkeepers visited the course six weeks later they found that the many varieties had come along exceptionally well. Under present arrangements, the greenkeeper is privileged to view the plots and carry away what information he may deem necessary.

The other agency which will assist the greenkeeper is private industry. A nationally known concern with ambition to capture the business of the golf clubs of Canada is willing to take any suggestion given to its executives with regard to fertilizers, experiment with it and turn the result over to the inquisitive greenkeeper at no cost. Thus private industry with its initiative is prepared to compete with the government and its experts.

Probably what will happen is that the greenkeeper may gather something of value from the experimental station and pass it on to private industry. It is certain that some benefit must accrue from the efforts initiated during 1931.

"All things considered we feel we have had a very fair year," said President W. J. Sansom. "We have had plenty to contend with and yet as work quiets down we find our courses in good shape—in fact in splendid condition. September and October for some reason or other during 1929 and 1930 were marked by a lack of

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moisture and followed by cold weather. This year we have had plenty of moisture and there is now no reason to feel that the climatic conditions of the fall will cause us any concern.

"I must say that the courses on which championships were held this year were in fine shape for the tournaments," he continued. "The open tournament of Canada was held at Mississauga during July. Golfers felt that the club would not be able to provide the desirable lay-out. However, the course was above criticism. Not one of the many fine golfers was able to say anything but the best concerning the work of Mr. Sansfield.

"Mr. Lloyd of Rosedale offered an excellent test during September for the Women's Open championship. There wasn't a spot on his course that could be condemned. Naturally we feel satisfied and even elated."

Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

THAT golf has taken another step into the realm of higher education in California is indicated by the fact that the Indian Hill golf course of Claremont has just opened nine new grass greens in cooperation with Scripps, Pomona, and Claremont Colleges. Reconstruc-

tion work and the transformation of the sand greens was in charge of William P. Bell, golf architect.

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The end of the most prolific season of turf ailments is seeing considerable activity on numerous courses in completing construction work and opening new areas in preparation for the winter tourist season. The San Diego Municipal golf course is preparing to throw its new nine open to play in November and the city fathers are considering the possibility of an eighteen-hole course.

* * *

Up the coast 100 miles at the Huntington Beach golf course John Hoagland has built a new green and is planning to make his nine-hole layout a full-sized course. M. E. Marzolf of the Santa Ana Country club, W. M. Thompson of the Mountain Meadows club of Pomona, and Francisco Mari of the Rancho Country club of Los Angeles are other greenkeepers who have completed or are in the process of completing work on new greens.

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It is also being noised about that the historic Los Seranos Country Club of Chino, California, is contemplating many changes and improvements in its course, club house, lake, and other amusement facilities. A detailed announcement will be forthcoming at any time.

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The prophets, the seers, and the scientists again have joined forces in the very dangerous sport of predicting that California is going to have an unusually wet winter. Inasmuch as they have been doing this very thing unsuccessfully for the past several years, the chances based upon the law of averages are bright at an above-normal precipitation will be forthcoming on this occasion.

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Greenkeepers are hoping and predicting with the rest of them, but at the same time they are performing the difficult task of keeping their fingers crossed, the irrigation equipment in order, and the storm drains cleared.

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The metropolitan water district bonds have been passed, the area around Los Angeles will be assured of plenty of water with the completion of the Hoover Dam. But in the meantime the water table is getting lower, the rates are getting higher and the golf courses are in danger, not seriously, but enough so that abundant rain would be hailed with thanksgiving.

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Some enthusiastic California golfers who boost not wisely but too well have raised the cry to the effect that in spite of adverse conditions the state has some of the finest greens in the world. Local greenkeepers feel, however, that regardless of the truth or falsity of the statement it should be disregarded because the past year has proved that their knowledge does not even approximate a solution of all turf difficulties.

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At a meeting of the Southern California greenkeepers on Columbus Day at the Hacienda Country club of