

Canadian News

By J. H. EVANS, *Golf Editor*

Toronto Globe

PARADOXICAL as it may seem in the light of prevailing conditions, the greenkeeper and course superintendent of eastern Canada expects, according to President W. J. Sansom, of the Ontario Greenkeepers' association, to have an exceptionally busy season. The forecast of the 1932 season provided by club executives and officials is that the play on the 150 courses of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces will be heavier than for many years. Furthermore, the forecast is intimation that thousands of golfers expect perfect tests for the sport and pastime this year.

The explanation of the paradox is that many golfers whose interest in the sport was confined to the spring and early summer and then again to the early and late fall must through necessity place a limit on their pleasure and will, as a consequence, spend their spare moments in their clubs, Mr. Sansom said. And then on account of necessity again, their attendance at their clubs will be for golf and not for the social purposes so frequently associated with the sport, particularly when United States and Canada were on the crest.

* * *

At the same time, clubs must enforce economies in 1932. The programs of more than a score of prominent organizations which paid little concern during the past decade to the question of expenditures are being closely scrutinized. The economies put into effect will place a limit on the amount to be spent on maintenance of courses and a decided limit on capital investments. The economies also include a reduction in the wages of the laborer.

Whether the policy is wise remains to be determined when the season comes to an end. There is a disposition, Mr. Sansom stated, on the part of the laborer who has found employment annually for years about courses of Ontario and Quebec to do his utmost for the clubs which have provided them with employment.

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"Reports which I have received from course superintendents tell the same story, the necessity for economy this year," said Mr. Sansom, briefly reviewing the prospects for 1932. "There have been wage reductions, but this was to be expected. There must be other economies in maintenance and there must be a limit on capital expenditure. However, there is no desire on the part of working forces about courses to dispute existing conditions, but rather a willingness to cooperate with clubs during the coming year.

CANADIAN COURSES IN SPLENDID SHAPE

"We are told that play should be heavy," he continued. "If the prediction is correct, clubs should con-

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clude the season in excellent condition, at least from a financial point of view. Fortunately every course has wintered well. There is little evidence of any damage. Late in March clubs more fortunately situated than others were able to offer permanent courses to their members. The snowfall of early April which was general over the eastern part of America did no damage whatsoever in Ontario; in fact, it rather assisted us.

"There have been no changes in the personnel of staffs maintaining courses. The economies have not included the discharge of workers. This was wise. Laborers who have been on one course or another throughout the Province are, while generally regarded as unskilled, invaluable on account of their knowledge of the conditions which have prevailed. A disruption of working forces might prove disastrous. With the start we have received we can meet each situation as it arises if we are permitted to enjoy normal conditions."

Mr. Sansom said that some anxiety was felt by Course Superintendent Kirby, of the Lambton Golf and Country Club during the winter. Kirby was instructed to prepare his course for the Canadian amateur golf championship and following the instructions of the club and the golf association committee built two new greens and made some other minor improvements late in the fall.

The greens came along better than he had anticipated. Their present condition has removed a burden from

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Kirby's shoulders. A stream of minor proportions runs through the course, but it went out this year without creating any damage to the fairway and green on the flats. Quite frequently the stream has broken up with considerable damage to the property of the Lambton club.

* * *

Superintendent Fred Haines, of the Summit Golf and Country Club, finds it necessary to do considerable fertilizing about the course. The course is built on extremely sandy soil. His task is a bit more troublesome this year on account of the demand for economy and necessity of the purchase of material in larger quantities.

* * *

Greenkeeper Hunter, of the Brantford Golf and Country Club, has commenced the beautifying of the course by planting a large number of trees. This is the limit to which Hunter is permitted to go on the matter of capital expenditure or in extra maintenance.

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In connection with the beautifying of courses an interesting situation developed some weeks ago. The Federal and Provincial governments provided the trees and shrubs necessary without charge or at a nominal figure. Private interests which had paid no concern to governmental policy in the past entered a protest with the gov-

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ernments, claiming there was an interference with business. The result was that governments were compelled to place some restriction on the size of its gifts.

* * *

The Federal government will continue to conduct its experimental plots which were laid out last year in Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg. It was thought that the demand made on the Federal Government for a balanced budget might compel the Federal Department of Agriculture to withdraw its support, although the expenditure was small, on the ground that the plots were luxuries. Fortunately the Government has not done so. Greenkeepers are following the work undertaken with considerable interest and would be disappointed if economies forced on the Department compelled its officials to ignore the work commenced last year.

Michigan News

By HERBERT E. SHAVE

THE Michigan and Border Cities Greenkeepers' Association held their Seventh Annual Banquet and election of officers at the Birmingham Golf Club, March 28, 1932. Forty-five greenkeepers and their guests sat down to a very fine dinner.

* * *

We were honored by the presence of S. L. Beymer, president of the club; G. E. Baldwin, vice president and chairman of the House committee. Also H. E. McCurry, chairman of Membership committee. Representatives of the Lawn Equipment Corp., Ideal Power Mower Co., Birmingham Lawn Supply Co., E. Chamberlain Co., and Toro Mfg. Co. were invited and turned out in good number.

After dinner our guests were taken to the recreation room to enjoy billiards, pool and ping pong while the greenkeepers were having their election of officers.

* * *

The following officers were elected: President, Wm. Smith, Red Run Golf Club, Royal Oak, Mich.; vice president, Benj. Bertram, Burroughs Recreation Farm and Golf Club, Brighton, Michigan; secretary-treasurer, Ruben Scott, Detroit Municipal Golf Course.

Board of Directors: John Gray, Essex County C. C., Windsor, Canada; Wm. Beaupre, Lockmoor C. C., Grosse Pointe, Mich.; Leo Wedyke, Glen Oaks C. C., Farmington, Mich.; E. Stoddard, Monroe C. C., Monroe, Mich.

* * *

Herb Shave, the retiring president, was tendered with a vote of thanks for the able manner he had carried on with the Association. Herb was also appointed Publicity man for 1932.

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