

## Royal Canadian Golf Association Green Section

The Royal Canadian Golf Association has followed the example set by the United States Golf Association, by establishing a Green Section to serve the Canadian golf clubs. Arrangements have been perfected by which the experimental work is carried on by the Canadian Department of Agriculture, and it is hoped that similar cooperation will be arranged with each provincial department of agriculture. For the present the publication of material will be through the Canadian Golfer.

It is also intended to prepare a hand-book for greenkeepers; to engage a specialist, who will be a whole-time employee of the Royal Canadian Golf Association and who will be available to all clubs belonging to the Royal Canadian Golf Association, to conduct experiments to ascertain the best grasses for use in Canada; to establish and maintain nurseries in eastern and western Canada for the development of the superior forms of grasses; and to cooperate with the agricultural colleges in providing short courses of instruction to practical greenkeepers. It was announced that arrangements have been made for the holding of five-day series of lectures early in March in Toronto and Montreal for all interested in the betterment of golf courses.

We wish our neighbors every measure of success in their new enterprise.

### A Preliminary Study of the Root Growth of Fine Grasses under Turf Conditions\*

By O. B. Fitts

The results of various studies on the roots of crop plants, trees, shrubs, and other plants have been published from time to time, but until 1921 or 1922 the subject had been given very little consideration with regard to the roots of grass cut to form a short turf. The importance of such knowledge became evident about that time, when the question arose as to whether or not it was wise to incorporate in the soil of putting greens in the course of construction, large quantities of manure and other expensive materials, a practice which was being advocated and followed very extensively in golf course construction. One of the main ideas in incorporating such materials in the greens was that of encouraging deep root growth, which, it was believed, would protect the grass against drouth and insure better turf. This question, of course, brought to surface many differences of opinion. Dr. Piper, Dr. Oakley and Prof. Carrier, who, it seems, were looked upon to settle many controversies involving grasses, golf courses, golf, and golfing conditions, prepared an outline of experiments to be conducted at the Arlington Experimental Turf Garden for the purpose of studying the roots of fine grasses and their relations to turf under various conditions, including different soils, various methods of care, the effects of the different seasons, and other features. The experiments were started and have since been kept under close observation, and the plots have been photographed for record. As a result of these experiments information has been gained which enables one to advise more intelligently regarding problems of root growth.

Before entering upon a detailed discussion of the experiments, it may be stated that the conclusions reached as a result of these and the hundred or more other experiments at the Arlington Turf Garden, are not in accord

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\*Paper read at the Annual Meeting of the Green Section, January 9, 1925.