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## The New President of the United States Golf Association

Mr. Findlay S. Douglas, who was elected president of the United States Golf Association at the annual meeting of the Association held in New York City January 5, 1929, was born in 1874 at that famous shrine of golf, St. Andrews, Scotland. On leaving Madras College he



Findlay S. Douglas, recently elected to the presidency of the United States Golf Association

entered the University of St. Andrews, and after study hours practiced the game of golf so intensively and to such advantage on the old course that one year after arriving in the United States he won the 1898 Amateur Championship, and in 1899 and 1900 was runner-up. Mr. Douglas in these early days of golf became very much interested in exemplifying the ancient and honorable traditions of the game as practiced in Scotland, and competed in all of the leading amateur events thereafter. In 1901 he won the Metropolitan Golf Association Amateur Championship and repeated in 1903. He served as a member of the executive committee of the Metropolitan Golf Association from 1910 to 1914 and also in 1925 and 1926, while from

1922 to 1924 he officiated as president of the Metropolitan Golf Association. The United States Golf Association elected Mr. Douglas a vice president in 1926, and he was reelected to the same position in 1927 and 1928. He is also president of the Burns Society of the City of New York and of the Twenty Club. His best known club affiliations are the Apawamis Club, the Blind Brook Club, and the National Golf Links of America, of which he is a founder. The Green Section is highly indebted to Mr. Douglas for the personal interest he has taken in advancing its activities, and his genial presence while acting as chairman of the annual Green Section meetings during the past two years has served to lend an old-time dignity to the proceedings and the discussions.

Mr. Melvin A. Traylor, the retiring president, a well-known banker, is president of the First National Bank of Chicago and a former president of the American Bankers' Association. In retiring from the office of president of the United States Golf Association, Mr. Traylor, we are happy to say, does not lose contact with that Association, since, as a member of the Advisory Committee of ex-Presidents of the United States Golf Association, his knowledge and keen judgment on golfing matters will hereafter be available in helping to guide the continued progress of the national governing body.

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## Testing Turf With a Mechanical Putter

By John Monteith, Jr.

What grass will give the best putting surface? Probably every golfer who is sufficiently interested to know one grass from another and frequently many who do not know even that much about grass are likely to have most decided opinions on this subject. When called upon to furnish proof as to the superiority of such a grass from the putting standpoint alone, such an individual is soon forced back to the defense that it is the grass on which he personally can make his best scores. It is claimed that turf produced from one supply of bent seed is superior in putting qualities to that produced from seed of very nearly the same kind of bent. Advocates of fescue argue that its bristle-like blades produce the only true putting turf. Enemies of bent planted with stolons argue that there is always a tendency for the stolons to run in one direction, producing a "grain" which makes a slow turf when the putt is against the stolons and a fast turf for the putt rolling in the direction in which the stolons have grown. Annual bluegrass, to some golfers, affords the most accurate and uniform putting turf. Likewise each grass used on putting greens apparently has its supporters who are willing to argue interminably in its favor and as vehemently to condemn all others.

During the past season at the Arlington Turf Garden we have had several large plots which have been kept in as nearly perfect putting condition as possible. These plots all have the same degree of slope and are mowed and otherwise cared for in exactly the same manner. The only difference between these several plots is that each was planted with a different grass. Each plot is provided with a regulation cup, and visitors have been invited to choose the grass which looked like the best putting turf and then to compare his choice with the other grasses. Anyone who has any misgivings as to an actual