

The Organization of the Green Section

By Wynant D. Vanderpool

There has been a great deal of confusion in the minds of many people about the Green Section's organization, and this is not to be wondered at, because it is impossible, in creating an organization of this size, to foresee the many developments into which work of this sort will lead. For this reason I am glad to be able at this time to give you briefly an outline of what the Green Section aims to accomplish and what its organization is, as I see it.

The Green Section was organized in November, 1920, by the appointment of a committee of about 15 members representing the different sections of the country, of which Dr. C. V. Piper was chairman and Dr. R. A. Oakley vice chairman. This organization was carried on in substantially that way until the amalgamation of the United States Golf Association and the Green Section, which was effected at the annual meeting of the association in 1927.

During the early years of the Green Section the work was carried on with considerable difficulty, owing to the lack of funds. Now, however, since the amalgamation, the United States Golf Association supplies a budget of approximately \$27,000 a year for this work, the amount being practically that which is received by the association from the membership dues. Thus all the money received from club dues is expended in Green Section work for the benefit of the clubs, which receive the monthly Bulletin and the benefit of all the experiments which are carried on at Arlington and other places.

When the United States Golf Association took over the Green Section the organization was changed and a small executive committee was formed consisting of myself as chairman, Dr. R. A. Oakley, Mr. H. L. Westover, Mr. H. Kendall Read of Philadelphia, Dr. W. S. Harban of Washington, and Mr. H. Y. Barrow of New York. In addition to this committee there is a research committee, consisting of Dr. R. A. Oakley as chairman, Mr. H. L. Westover as acting chairman, Dr. John Monteith, Jr., Mr. Kenneth Welton, and an executive secretary, Mr. F. H. Williams. There is also an advisory committee, consisting of 21 members, representing all parts of the country. These gentlemen are called upon for advice and guidance when any problem comes up in their respective territories.

The executive committee, composed as it is of men active in golf affairs, together with Dr. Oakley and Mr. Westover, who represent the United States Department of Agriculture, forms a very close contact between the United States Golf Association and the Department of Agriculture. Dr. Oakley and Mr. Westover, being employed by the Department of Agriculture, very generously give their Green Section service without any recompense whatsoever. Dr. Monteith and Mr. Welton are employed by the Green Section to carry on the work in Washington and other places.

The work of the Green Section embraces the following features:

(1) The main experiment station at Arlington; the new station which is being established on Mr. Lasker's property in Chicago; and the experiment station at Stanford University, Calif., which was established in the fall of 1928 after arrangements had been made by Dr. Oakley.

(2) State colleges and experiment stations working in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture.

(3) Demonstration turf gardens established in 1928 at 15 courses in various parts of the country.

(4) The extension service, which includes the publication of the monthly Bulletin and the answering of hundreds of letters of inquiry from the Washington office.

The main experiment station of the Green Section is at Arlington, on the south bank of the Potomac River immediately across from Washington, D. C. It is under the direct supervision of the United States Department of Agriculture. This serves the United States Golf Association as an experimental laboratory, very much as the laboratories of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and the General Electric Company serve those respective companies. Disease work, the control of insect pests, weed control, the reaction of different fertilizers on the various strains of grass, as well as the relative merit of different strains of grass, both putting green and fairway, are all tried out on small test plots at Arlington. This work at Washington is under the direct supervision of Mr. Westover, Dr. Monteith, and Mr. Welton, with Dr. Kellerman and Dr. Pieters, of the Department of Agriculture, acting in an advisory capacity. The work at the new experiment station at Chicago is being laid out on a larger scale than at the Arlington station. It is a Green Section project and the Green Section assumes full responsibility for its maintenance. Mr. Lasker has complied with every demand we have made of him, and has gone even further than we asked in giving us a 10-year lease, subject to cancellation in case the property is sold.

A further extension of the Green Section's work is carried out by local associations, and I have in mind particularly the Metropolitan Golf Association, which should be heartily congratulated on the splendid cooperation which they have given the Green Section. The Metropolitan area naturally divides itself into three districts,—Westchester, New Jersey, and Long Island; and green sections have also been formed in these three districts. These three district associations are cooperating with the Metropolitan Golf Association in further extension work in their districts and are all working in harmony and close cooperation with the central station at Washington. Dr. Monteith and others from the United States Golf Association Green Section attend their frequent meetings. This work is in no way a duplication, but affords an opportunity for the local greenkeepers to visit various courses and hold discussion with the Green Section's representatives.

The whole theory of the Green Section's work is to avoid as much as possible duplication of labor and effort. It must be borne in mind, however, that unless the work is actually brought to the different localities and frequent meeting are held in various parts of the country, the work can not be properly brought home to the greenkeepers. We wish to emphasize the fact that this whole work is being done for the benefit of the member clubs of the United States Golf Association by giving their green chairmen and greenkeepers an opportunity of sharing in the cooperative experiments in disease control and tests of different strains of grass which are being conducted in Washington and elsewhere. We can assure them that we wish their hearty cooperation and will in every way accept their constructive suggestions and aid them as much as possible.