

TURF CULTURE

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INTRODUCING "TURF CULTURE"

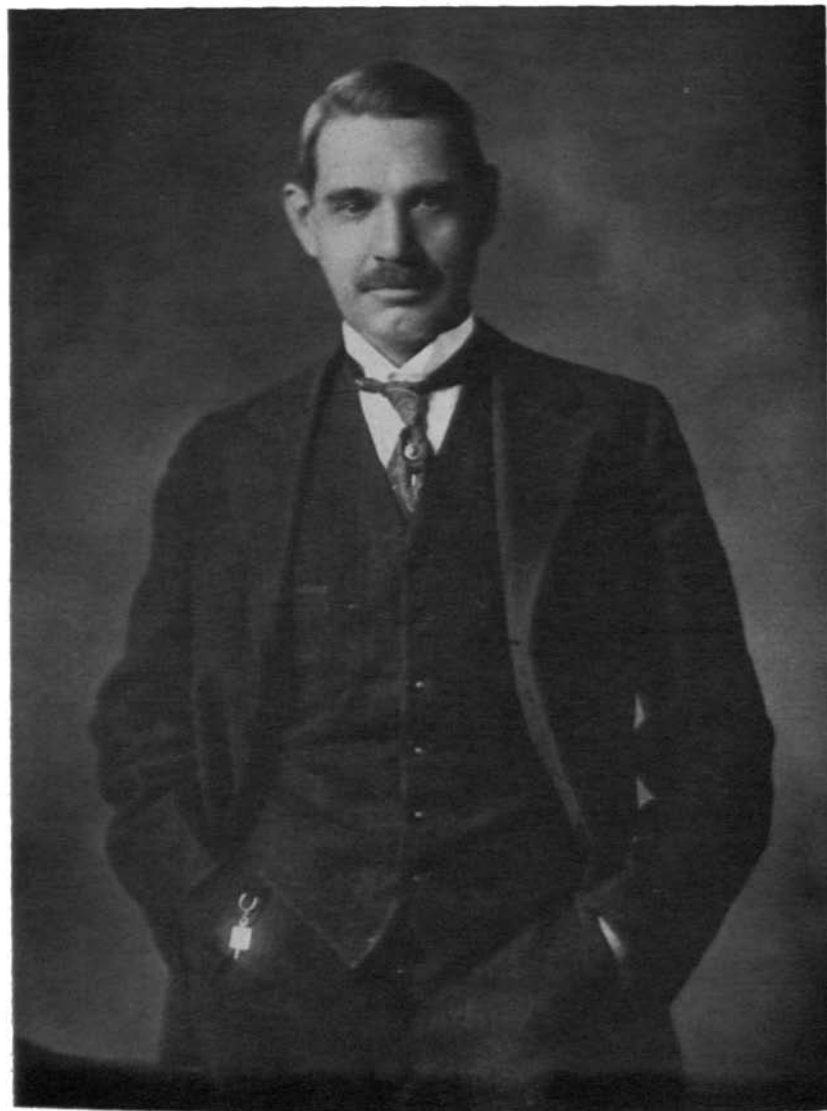
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Apparently the first systematic study of grasses in this country for turf purposes was begun as early as 1885 by Mr. J. B. Olcott at South Manchester, Conn. Mr. Olcott traveled extensively and collected samples of promising grasses from various places in this country as well as in Europe, New Zealand, and Australia. These selections were made primarily from the standpoint of their lawn possibilities.

Later, as the interest in golf became more general and as golfers demanded better playing conditions, the men who were in charge of some of our principal golf courses were far-sighted enough to realize that ultimate improvements in turf could best be obtained by a scientific study of the various problems encountered in raising turf on golf courses under widely different soil and climatic conditions.

As a result, a cooperative agreement was drawn up between the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Golf Association for a program for the study of turf grasses. This work was begun in 1920 under the direction of the late C. V. Piper, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, and has continued to date. During that interval extensive experimental work has been conducted in various parts of the country to determine the best grasses, the most effective fertilizers,

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Dr. C. V. Piper (1867-1926), under whose direction the Green Section investigations were inaugurated in the Bureau of Plant Industry in 1921 and whose dynamic influence was felt even after his death.

disease and insect remedies, and to develop cultural practices which will lead to the improvement of turf.

The results of these studies were made available to the public through the Bulletin of the Green Section of the United States Golf Association. The Bulletin was published from 1921 to 1933, inclusive. Since 1933 a few scattered mimeographed and printed pamphlets have been issued under the name of Turf Culture. The material published in those issues was of a different type from that intended for this new publication under the same name. The old series had a limited circulation and many numbers are already out of print. Any material of permanent value in them will be republished in the new series as opportunity is provided, so the old series may be ignored. Therefore, this issue is put out as Vol. I, No. 1, of a new series of TURF CULTURE, which is planned to be a permanent periodical devoted to the dissemination of information pertaining to the establishment and maintenance of turf.

The field covered by TURF CULTURE will be broader than that embraced by the old Bulletin. The new periodical will contain articles of interest to all workers concerned with the establishment and maintenance of turf on private lawns, parks, sports fields, cemeteries, airports, as well as golf courses.

Generally speaking, there will be three sections in each issue. In the first, original articles will give the results of scientific research or of large-scale practical applications of newly developed principles. In the second section summaries will be given of recent results of other workers on such subjects as may be of interest to those concerned with turf culture. Through the original papers and the reviews of published results of other workers, we thus will endeavor to keep our readers informed on the recent developments in the numerous fields

of scientific investigation which seem to contribute to turf improvement. In the third section, headed "Our Letter Box," readers will find correspondence which will be helpful not only to the original inquirer but also to many others who have similar problems.



Dr. R. A. Oakley (left), 1880-1931, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, and Dr. W. S. Harban (right), 1857-1938, were both active in the establishment and development of the Green Section. Dr. Harban was Vice President of the United States Golf Association when the Green Section was organized and served on the Green Section committee from 1921 until his death.

The plan is to group the articles wherever practical in such a way that the major papers in any one number will be centered around one particular subject. This arrangement will serve to focus the attention of our readers in turn on each of the numerous angles of turf culture, as well as to facilitate reference at some later date to material published in earlier numbers. Following this policy no attempt will be made to keep the issues a uniform number of pages.

It was natural perhaps that the golf enthusiasts should be among the first to be vitally concerned with improving the qualities of turf, since it contributes so much to their enjoyment of the sport. Many of the problems of raising turf having the especially fine quality required for putting greens are seldom encountered except on golf courses. However, by far the larger turfed areas of the golf course are the fairways, tees, and rough. The problems faced in improving the cultural practices on these large areas are essentially identical with those faced by anyone interested in the establishment and maintenance of superior



W. D. Vanderpool, as Secretary of the United States Golf Association, was influential in the organization of the Green Section and has been one of its staunchest supporters since its inception.

turf on private lawns, parks, sports fields, cemeteries, road shoulders, airports, and other turfed areas. The results of our investigations of these problems should therefore be equally helpful to all those concerned with the raising of turf.

The United States Golf Association feels therefore that by the establishment of this publication, *TURF CULTURE*, it offers an authoritative organ created to serve the best interests of the golfing public, the professional greenkeepers, and that large group of individuals who are interested in improving turf for many purposes.