

# FRUITFUL MEETINGS ON THE RULES

A NUMBER of improvements in the Rules of Golf have been drafted by representatives of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and the United States Golf Association, and will be submitted for approval to their governing bodies during the summer. There will be no immediate change in the playing code.

The proposals of the joint negotiating committee, which met in London and St. Andrews last month, are almost all minor in character. They are intended to cover pretation of existing Rules which have occurrences in play and difficulties of inter-arisen since the present world-wide code was drafted during R & A — USGA meetings four year ago. The major object of the negotiators was to clarify the Rules still further.

Matters of fundamental importance which were considered include:

1. *Lifting of the ball on the putting green:* It is hoped, by proposals for changes in Rules, to reduce the amount of ball-lifting.
2. *The flagstick:* It is hoped to simplify the handling of the flagstick.
3. *The ball:* Studies will be continued on both sides of the Atlantic in the hope of producing agreement on a standard ball. At present the only difference between the Rules of Golf under the R. & A. and under the USGA is the diameter of the ball. In Great Britain the ball must not be smaller than 1.62 inches; in America, 1.68 inches. In both countries the maximum weight is 1.62 ounces. The joint committee was desirous of reaching agreement on a standard, and one which can be checked by simple means. The problem is not easy. For the presnt, it has been agreed to pursue investigations which have been conducted for some years, and to propose no change in

## *A Very Apt Poem*

Many years ago the Rev. Samuel M. Lindsay, of Palm Beach, Fla., came across a poem. He didn't know who wrote it, but he corrected the metre so it would read better. It fitted so well into the service for golfers at the Royal Poinciana Chapel in Palm Beach that he had it printed on the calendar. One golfer who read it told Dr. Lindsay he was going to have it put on his tombstone.

The poem:

### *Golfer's Prayer*

When facing outward on life's tee  
Whate'r may be my fate  
Grant, I pray, this boon to me  
That I may drive them straight

And if my best be not enough  
Then give me courage high  
To go out there into the rough  
And play them as they lie.

And when on life's broad putting green  
The others make the cup  
If I do not, may I come clean  
And always be well up.

And when my game of life is played  
And my clubs are laid aside  
No matter what mistakes I've made  
May I have qualified.

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the Rules until after thorough examination.

No further details will be issued until the respective governing authorities have had an opportunity to consider the report of the negotiators.

The negotiations were carried forward in the same spirit of harmony and friendship which distinguished the meetings in 1951, when the present world code was drafted. It is hoped to have similar periodic reviews of the Rules in future.

The representatives were:

R. & A. — Lt. Col. Charles O. Hezlet, Chairman; Dr. James Lawson, David McCurrach, Lord Brabazon of Tara, James Mitchell and Thomas Whitaker.

USGA—Richard S. Tufts, Chairman; Charles B. Grace, John W. Fischer and Joseph C. Dey, Jr.