

## The Annual Meeting of the United States Golf Association and of the Green Section

In this number of THE BULLETIN will be found the address of the retiring president of the United States Golf Association, Mr. Howard F. Whitney, which we are sure will be of interest to all concerned in the progress of golf.

As a supplement we are also publishing in full the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Green Section held at the Drake Hotel, Chicago, January 14, 1922. It is only right that those who could not be present at this meeting should have the benefit of full knowledge of what transpired. There is much in the report that will be of general interest. Don't fail to read it.

---

### Address of Mr. Howard F. Whitney, Retiring President of the United States Golf Association

The Green Committee is fortunate in being able to present to the readers of THE BULLETIN this address of President Whitney's, which was given at the luncheon of the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association at the Drake Hotel, Chicago, January 14, 1922. Mr. Whitney, in his address, has touched upon a number of points near to the hearts of all lovers of the game and which we have felt will be of deep interest to the many who could not be present on the occasion. The address in full follows:

This luncheon is given by the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association in order to place before you gentlemen who represent the government in golf through various sectional and district associations in the country, certain matters pertaining to the game which our Committee deems of vast importance to its welfare, and also briefly to summarize our stand and opinion on several subjects pertinent to the game, and our reasons for taking the positions we have on these matters. I would like to impress upon you that no action of the United States Golf Association has ever been taken without first making a most thorough investigation of the conditions surrounding the problem, and the decision in each case has been reached only after the most careful study from all angles with the one view in mind—the best interests of the game of golf.

The first subject that I would like to approach is the control of the game, and I would like to give you the views of the Executive Committee, of which I have been a member during the last seven years. The ruling bodies in golf should be composed of men of responsibility who play the game of golf and who understand the principles upon which the game is based, and its traditions and fundamentals. No man who benefits in any way, directly or indirectly, should have a voice in the policy of any golf association. The officials should be representative of the golfers in the country, and it is their duty to keep the game a clean and purely amateur sport. It is their further duty to take all steps necessary to prevent inventors or manufacturers from exploiting championships or prominent players in championships in order to sell their goods.

The Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association is made up of men in widely separated districts throughout the United States. They are the trustees for the Havemeyer Cup, the emblem of the amateur championship in this country. A player who enters the United States Golf Association Championship must look upon the winning of the title of champion as an honor and a glory only, and not as an opportunity. The game is too fine, too inspiring, to allow any other spirit to prevail; and no man can be bigger than the game itself. There has been a growing practice among some dealers to exploit our champion-

ships by giving presents to the prominent amateurs competing. It is a vicious practice when men who happen to be good players receive their golf equipment free, while men of slightly inferior ability, and the public, have to pay the bill. The first consideration should be always, in receiving an entry for a championship, that a man must be a gentleman and a sportsman. These characteristics should come first, regardless of the quality of his game. There has been too much hero-worship in this country for a great many years, both by the press and the public, who seem to think that if a man is a good player that that alone is sufficient for eligibility.

One of the most difficult problems that our Association had to meet was that of the definitions of *amateur* and *professional*. We have now worked this out with the Royal and Ancient so that it appears to us to be far more satisfactory than any heretofore written. Some golfing bodies have, in our opinion, regarded reinstatements too lightly, and have not given due consideration to the protection of the amateur. Our rule now makes it necessary for a recognized professional to wait three years before he can be reinstated. If he has been a recognized professional for five years or more, he never can be reinstated. A player must definitely be one or the other. We believe that the best interests of the game are not served when a man can turn from the amateur to the professional ranks and vice versa at will. No exploitation of an amateur will be tolerated. The Amateur and Professional rule has made a definite demarcation line between the two. A player cannot be both professional and amateur or half professional and half amateur; he must be either one or the other. There is no place for a quasi-amateur or a semi-professional; these are not wanted by either the bona-fide professional or amateur.

When the Special Committee of the United States Golf Association arrived in England, the thought uppermost in the minds of the committee we met there was to come to an agreement on the limiting of the power of the golf ball. We had previously given this matter a great deal of thought, and were aware that the time had arrived when it was most necessary to work out a limit on the balls, as they were being manufactured to increase in distance every year. These lively balls were gradually undermining the game. Manufacturers had but one idea in mind; that was of increased distance, thereby sacrificing durability for this. The length of a hole as laid out as a proper distance for 1, 2 or 3 shots was completely thrown out of balance on account of the increased flight of the ball. Courses were getting too long to play comfortably two rounds on any one day; it made it too tiresome for the player. The expense of upkeep and purchase of more property and of reconstruction of the course was getting to be a hardship to many clubs. Most important of all, the science of the game was being spoiled; a poorly played shot would often be as effective as one properly played. It was also equalizing the play in the way of bringing the scientific player and unscientific player nearer on a par with each other. We came to a happy agreement on the point of limitation with the Royal and Ancient; and all the manufacturers have fallen in line and are devoting their energies to improving the quality of the ball; and they have given up the idea of trying to discover some freak that would go yards farther. They are all more than satisfied with this arrangement for they now know where they stand and they do not have to spend a lot of extra money on new machinery for new inventions.

There is a growing tendency in this country among players to make the game easier and to waive penalties. It is the duty of the governing bodies in golf to educate the players to realize the importance of maintaining the traditions and fundamentals of the game and not to allow misguided opinion to sway their judgments. The game of golf has two basic principles. First: In the play from tee to green, take your chances with the wind, rain, and the lie of the ball. Golf is founded upon tradition, and the player's philosophy should be to play the game and take the breaks, good or bad, as they come, like a sportsman. Second: You must do nothing to take advantage of your opponent. The charm of the game rests on these two principles. I have heard some amateurs and professionals both who want to play winter rules all the year round; who have no conception of the real game of golf; who want to tee up every ball that is not in a good lie. This type has not the spirit of the game in any sense of the word. If the governing bodies of golf listen to this type of golfer and change the rules to conform to his mistaken ideas, the game would soon lose its great attraction.

You must keep in mind that golf has been played for hundreds of years and that its present state is the result of play over all this time. I believe what we have today in the game is the best that has survived. It is now seasoned to a point that very few of the suggestions made in the last year or two for changes in the rules are desirable. There do exist local situations where local rules are necessary; these local rules should not be made general rules of golf. The written text of the rules should be the same the world over. No end of confusion will result in having sets of rules in different localities; one would never know what game he was playing. Only harm can result to the game unless we all get together on a uniform code of rules, and that code in conformity as near as possible with the code adopted by the Royal and Ancient. I want to say this after careful study by our Committee, both here and on the other side. International golf is the greatest factor for the development of the game; and international golf would be killed if the two countries played a different game. We who have been abroad know this to be a fact. There is another reason for uniformity with Great Britain, and golf supplies the medium as nothing else does so well. We believe that international golf has this year done more to cement the friendship of our two countries than international agreements, understandings, or alliances.

The most interesting part of the game of golf is in the green play; and the stymie which is included in this has been the subject of probably more controversy than any other in the game of golf. There have been many experiments with this particular feature of the game with a view of eliminating the element of luck that prevents a player from having an open shot for the hole. Our Special Committee gave this subject the most careful study and discussed it from every angle with the Royal and Ancient committee. We were acting not entirely according to our individual judgments in this matter, but to seek a middle ground. The United States Golf Association has put into practice two distinct changes in the stymie. Our first experiment was not practical; it was too complicated; although in theory we believed it was sound. It laid open to controversy the self-laid stymie within the boundaries of the putting-green, whether or not the play was within twenty yards of the hole. Our Committee then presented the alternative which we have used this year, and which has been used by many sectional associations and has proved very satisfactory. The difference between the old stymie and the one being played now by the United States Golf Association is simply this:

In this country we have entirely eliminated the so-called unfair and unplayable stymie, but with it we have also eliminated the finest shot in golf, the short ritch into the hole. There is no shot in golf so interesting as this shot, nor one that requires so much science and skill. By taking away this shot we have undoubtedly deprived the skillful stymie player of the advantage he possessed, thereby putting him on a par with the less scientific player. On the other hand our stymie rule leaves the pitch shot in the game except when the opponent's ball is so near the hole that it is conceded. It is an open question whether any of the changes from the old mode of play have been an improvement, and the matter should receive the most careful study by golf associations as to the advisability of going back to the old mode of green play, the reason being that golf associations should not allow the standard and science of golf to be lowered.

Another important subject which is receiving the careful attention of the United States Golf Association's Executive Committee is the question of the slotted and grooved clubs. Here is another question that must soon be met as to whether these clubs are lowering the science and skill of play and bringing the poorer player on a level with the good player, due to the fact that the club is so constructed to make it unnecessary for a player to learn the different shots. The Royal and Ancient are convinced that the time has come when the slotted and grooved clubs must be barred in championships. In this country, in fairness to the manufacturer, sufficient time must be given him to adjust his business before any ruling barring these clubs can be made. The championship test should be a test of the highest skill; and if the golf bodies of this country decide that this type of club is taking away from the science of the game, it is their duty to stop its use in championship competition.

The caddie situation.—The United States Golf Association's Executive Com-

mittee deems it of the greatest importance for sectional associations and individual clubs to study out their caddie situations and do all in their power to bring about a closer relationship between the caddie and the player. The United States Golf Association sent a circular to all its member-clubs last spring with recommendations along certain lines, with a view of bringing about this much-desired end. Our circular had, we think, a very good effect. The Kansas City Golf Association has gone us several steps better and has issued a pamphlet which we believe the finest ever issued along these lines. Golfers of this country owe this Association a debt of gratitude for the splendid work it has done in compiling this booklet. We hope all clubs in the country will procure a copy as soon as possible.

**The Green Section.**—The Green Section of the United States Golf Association, was organized during the early part of last year. Its object is to form a central distributing station in order to gather and send out to the golf clubs in the United States information of value relative to the upkeep and preservation of the finer grasses; also to advise the green committees of the golf clubs in this country on all matters that will be of benefit to them to save a great of the money that has heretofore been wasted through lack of proper information. The results have been far beyond our expectation, and the golfers of America owe a vote of thanks to Messrs. Piper, Oakley, Marshall, Dr. Harban, and others, who have worked so diligently in carrying this through to its present successful state.

To sum up, our Association stands for:

1. Control of the implements of the game by the players.
2. Strict supervision of amateurism.
3. A uniform code of rules throughout the world; local rules where local situations warrant.
4. Unity of action in all sectional associations.
5. Uniform professional and amateur definitions.
6. Maintenance of the highest standard of skill in the game of golf.

## The Grass Seed Crop and the Wholesale Market

The Service Bureau has received numerous inquiries of late which indicate quite a general interest in the supply of turf grass seeds and the prices at which they are offered on the wholesale market. Some inquirers have expressed a curiosity to know why certain kinds of seeds are held at such high prices as are now prevailing, particularly in the case of seeds of domestic production. For the benefit of those who may be interested, there are given below the wholesale prices of the important turf grass seeds as of February 1, 1922, and some statements relative to the status of supply of seeds to the extent that reliable information is had on the subject:

Kentucky bluegrass .....	\$45-.50
Redtop (solid or recleaned seed).....	.20-.27
Rhode Island bent .....	1.25
South German mixed bent .....	.75-1.00
Chewings fescue.....	.30
European red fescue .....	.50-.60
Sheep's fescue .....	.40
Perennial rye-grass .....	.10-.12
Italian rye-grass .....	.08-.10
Canada bluegrass .....	.35-.40
White clover .....	.30-.45

The range in the price of the various kinds of seeds represents, in the main, differences in quality. The prices, it will be noted from the table, are high especially in comparison with those of most of the important agricultural products, but there is no evidence that these prices are in any way