

## The Green Section and the Golf Architect

Golf architects as a group form a very important factor in the progress of golf. In the past ten years they have made notable advancement in developing good features.

Whenever the advice of the Green Section has been asked concerning the building of a new golf course, the invariable reply has been, "First of all, get a good golf architect." Very frequently the second letter asks, "Tell us whom you regard as good golf architects." Naturally this is an embarrassing question, and one to which in all fairness the Green Section can not reply in any specific manner. The most it can properly do is to suggest that the club confer with golfers of experience and secure their opinions, which, of course, will vary considerably.

The reputation of every golf architect is of the highest importance to him and in the long run will rest on the degree of excellence of the courses which he has designed. This is becoming increasingly the case as constantly enlarging numbers of golfers are interesting themselves in the architectural features of golf courses, and judging of their merits or defects. The development of the critic of golf architecture was just as inevitable as was that of the critic of art or literature—and in the same manner will tend to raise standards. It may safely be predicted that some of these days the golf architects will form a society or organization for the advancement of their profession just as all other specialists have done.

In addition to architectural features it has become the custom of many architects to give detailed instructions regarding soil preparation, fertilizers, kinds of seed to use, time and rate of seeding, etc. On all of these subjects there are still differences of opinion; not only as regards golf courses, but as regards plant culture in general. These differences of opinion are, however, largely in details, not in fundamentals. For example, every agricultural scientist recognizes the importance of good soil preparation and knows that the lack of this can not be remedied to any extent by increasing the rate of seeding. Yet this particular notion still prevails to a great degree and incidentally is one reason why the seedsman is so frequently blamed.

The Green Section has at its command a vast store of information about soils and grasses, indeed all matters that relate to turf production. This information is freely at the service of golf architects; indeed, has been given in many cases, on request, to architects.

The Green Section has no ambition to become a dictator in any part of the field of golf. Its whole aim is to promote progress. It can hope to be effective exactly in proportion to the degree of cordial understanding or of helpful cooperation which it is striving to bring about. In this attitude it desires to help wherever possible, and cordially invites the co-operation of all golf architects and indeed every one else interested in the quality of golf courses.

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Volume I, of the Bulletin (1921), has been reprinted and may be obtained in one cover for \$2.25.