

**Annual Report of the Chairman of the Green Committee
of the United States Golf Association
for the Year 1923.**

MEMBERS OF THE GREEN SECTION :

The end of the third year's work of the Green Section permits us again to record that progress has been made. While our advancement has been perhaps all that could be expected, it is not really satisfactory to the officers of the Green Section. We ought to reach every golf course in America instead of only 25 per cent of them. To reach them all there is needed a different system of financial support from our present makeshift plan; one that will place THE BULLETIN at a price within the reach of all. This can be effected, as soon as a better method of financing the Green Section is adopted. At a modest price, THE BULLETIN should then reach all golf clubs.

GREEN SECTION MEMBERSHIP

The Green Section enrollment for 1923 was as follows:

Member clubs of the United States Golf Association.....	419
Clubs in the United States, not members of the United States Golf Assn.---	188
Canadian clubs -----	32
Other foreign clubs (Cuba, Argentina, Mexico, and Bermuda, 1 each)----	4
Total Green Section enrollment for 1923-----	643

In addition, prior to December 31, 1923, new clubs enrolled for membership to start with January 1, 1924, as follows:

Member clubs of the United States Golf Association.....	6
Clubs in the United States, not members of the United States Golf Assn.---	4
Total number of clubs enrolled in the Green Section on Dec. 31, 1923..	653

At the end of the first year, 1921, the Green Section had 387 member clubs; at the close of 1922, 557 member clubs; and now, 653.

It is interesting to note that of the 654 clubs in the United States Golf Association, 425 are members of the Green Section and 229 are not members of the Green Section. Of the 653 clubs in the Green Section, 228 are not members of the United States Golf Association, but 36 of these are not located in the United States.

It would seem that efficient missionary work could add 230 more members to the United States Golf Association as well as to the Green Section.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Cash Account, December 31, 1923.

Cash in bank and on hand December 31, 1922.....	\$3,794.94
Advance payments received for 1924 membership fees and subscrip- tions -----	1,740.67
	\$5,535.61
Less excess disbursements for year ended December 31, 1923.....	1,000.29
Cash in bank and on hand December 31, 1923.....	\$4,535.32

Receipts

Membership fees from 643 clubs.....	\$9,696.66
Subscriptions for the Bulletin, other than provided for in membership fees	926.30
Reprints of Volume I and back numbers of Volume II.....	633.40
Interest on bank deposit.....	108.57
Appropriation from the United States Golf Association: Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, \$3,000; Florida Experiment Station, \$300.....	3,300.00
Miscellaneous	28.00
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Total receipts	\$14,692.93

Disbursements

Twelve monthly Bulletins, including printing and cuts.....	\$2,846.16
Bulletin binders	240.00
Washington office and field expenses, clerical services, rent, equipment, postage, telephone, telegrams, stationery and office supplies.....	6,178.93
Travel and sundry expenses of committee members.....	1,178.55
Subscriptions to periodicals.....	14.36
Experimental materials and seed sample examinations.....	14.80
Experimental implements	277.99
Expenses of meetings.....	139.20
Bank exchange	14.99
Reprinting Volume I, and advertising.....	1,488.24
Cooperative work with Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture	3,000.00
Cooperative work with Florida Experiment Station.....	300.00
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Total disbursements	\$15,693.22
Excess disbursements for year ended December 31, 1923.....	1,000.29
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	\$14,692.93

THE BULLETIN

Volume III of THE BULLETIN contains 324 pages, exclusive of the Index. The reprints of Volume I have sold well, and it will be probably soon necessary to make a reprint of Volume II, several numbers of which are exhausted.

ENLARGING AND PERPETUATING THE GREEN SECTION.

There is a continuous demand from clubs for personal visits to help solve their problems. At present but few of these requests can be met. By training specialists for the work, we would at the same time be insuring competent men to carry on the Green Section in the future. The printed word often fails in its message, as our correspondence frequently indicates. Visits by trained men as soon as they can be developed, will add a personal touch to our work which ought to be very effective.

The present organization of the Green Section does not insure its perpetuation. New men must be trained so as to be available to carry on the work in the future.

An endowment fund seems the most feasible plan to provide for greater support, and the United States Golf Association has sanctioned the organization of an incorporation to carry out this idea.

The Green Section needs larger support to adequately perform the work of investigation and of research necessary to reach its highest development with which it is confronted. It must be borne in mind that much of the information which it has utilized is that gathered by years of work by the United States Department of Agriculture and state agricultural experiment stations. This fund of information, so far as it relates to golf courses, is now pretty well exhausted. If the Green Section is to be kept up to its present standard, there must be much experimental work performed to solve some of the very perplexing problems which confront greenkeepers. The wide variations of soil and climate in this country give rise to many local problems. It can not be expected that the results of experiments conducted in one locality can be applied generally over the whole United States. There is great need for experimental work similar to that conducted at the Arlington Farm at Washington, to be carried on in several different places. The carrying on of experimental work at several places in the country by the Green Section is important for two reasons: First, because it enables us to determine the influence of different climatic and soil conditions upon turf growing; second, because it will enable us in large measure to unify the investigational work so that experiments in different places will be strictly comparable. Already several agricultural experiment stations are much interested and are anxious to assist in the work. Some of them have ventured to give advice, which we are sure would have been different had it been based on their actual investigations, rather than from old publications. At the present time we are assisting the Florida Experiment Station to conduct some work in cooperation, as there are numerous problems connected with subtropical grasses which can only be solved by tests under the actual conditions. I am sure that the opportunity to enlist the cooperation of trained investigators in our turf problems is one that we must embrace in order to secure the best results. This however will require more funds than the Green Section at present possesses.

It is highly important that the turf investigations all over the country be so organized that the different agencies will not by any mischance work at cross purposes.

Sour Soils.

By LYMAN CARRIER.

Soil chemists are not in entire accord as to what constitutes a sour soil. There are a few simple tests which distinguish acids from alkalies. Litmus paper, which can be obtained from the drug store, is commonly used. Acids turn blue litmus paper red, and alkalies will turn red litmus paper blue. An easy way to make a soil test for acidity, is to put a piece of litmus paper at the bottom of a glass tumbler and fill it with damp soil. The change, if it occurs, will take place in a few minutes and may be viewed through the glass. Soil is a complex material, and the litmus test is not reliable for all chemical conditions which may be encountered.

Many popular notions have developed about sour land. We frequently get in our correspondence the statement "Our soil is sour." After