

The Million Dollar Endowment Fund for the Green Section

The campaign for the Million Dollar Endowment Fund for the Green Section has been put in motion by the United States Golf Association. The formal announcement to this effect was made at a Green Section Meeting held September 24 at Overbrook, near Philadelphia. Full details appear elsewhere in this issue.

Now is the opportunity for everyone who believes in the Green Section to help put it on a permanent basis that will insure its continued efficiency.

October 25 is set aside as a Green Section Tournament Day for trophies given by the United States Golf Association. The primary object is to get the playing golfers acquainted with the Green Section and its work.

The opportunity is here for every Green Section booster to help start the good work. For the good of golf, we expect every man to do his duty.

Injuries to Putting Greens by Careless Mowing

By W. S. HARBAN

It would hardly seem necessary for one to write upon a subject so well understood and so universally practised by all good greenkeepers as that of how to use a mower without causing injury to the turf. Recent observations at many courses, however, clearly indicate there are yet many greenkeepers who, either from ignorance or indifference, permit their greens to be horribly disfigured by careless mowing. The two most common injuries come from scalping the high spots, and from scraping incident to faulty turning of the mower. In either case, this careless mowing will, when several times repeated at the same places, kill the grass roots, and leave large bare areas that are naturally unsightly and exceedingly harmful and annoying in putting. That it is possible to avoid such injuries is well evinced on all well-groomed courses. *It is the province of the greenkeeper to grow, protect and preserve the turf; not to destroy it.*

Let me say just a word or two about the mechanism of the mowers in use today. Scientifically they are as nearly perfect as human ingenuity can make them. They are safeguarded by wheels and rollers in such a manner that the grass can be cut with impunity very closely on true level places and with as much assurance as you trust your safety razor. Like the razor, where the bumps or angles appear, it requires easing over them. This can be done with the mower by slightly depressing the handle, throwing the principal weight of the machine on the rear wheels or roller, thereby easing the knife. This does not necessarily mean that the grass is left longer on the high places but insures that it will not be cut shorter. Never straddle a high point or ridge if it can be avoided.

All mowers of every kind and make are designed to be rigid. Therefore when all the wheels and rollers are on the ground the mower can not be turned without dragging, bruising and scraping the turf or the soil under it. By depressing the handle bar sufficiently to place all the weight on the back rollers, entirely lifting the front of the machine so as to be free, the rollers are made to turn easily without the slightest injury to the turf. I have been asked many times how to mow one of the modern built-up or island greens when the entire surface has to be cut to the edge of the banks,