

PROFESSIONAL TO A MILLIONAIRE

Leo Diegel Secures a Lucrative Private Position Offered to and Declined by
C. R. Murray of Montreal.

SAYS Mr. George Trevor, Golf Editor of the Brooklyn Eagle, in the issue of November 2nd:—

"Although it is not possible to buy one's game of golf "ready made," still, if one is plentifully endowed with this world's goods, it is strictly feasible to purchase the best instruction available and let the power of suggestion do the rest. All this is apropos of Leo Diegel's recent departure from a lucrative position as golf professional at the New Orleans Country Club to embark upon his new duties as private instructor and golfing companion to Edward McLean, Washington's millionaire enthusiast.

Diegel's decision to devote the next few years of his career to raising the standard of Mr. McLean's game calls to mind the somewhat analogous instances of noted physicians and surgeons who have abandoned large private practices to dedicate their professional careers to the task of keeping some particular patron in the proverbial "pink."

Undoubtedly Diegel's new job will be a congenial one, affording him, as it will, plenty of opportunity for competitive golf, the lack of which has prevented the brilliant youngster from reaching that niche in the golf world to which his natural talents entitle him. At Washington, Leo will be profitably engaged on Mr. McLean's private links, coaching his patron and the latter's coterie of fellow golf fanatics in the intricacies of the 'umblin' Scotch game. Diegel's remuneration is said to be a princely one, and he is the object of envious glances from many less favored pros. Certainly Mr. McLean could not well have selected an abler golfer, or one who combines to such a degree a genius for the game with a pleasing personality."

This is the position offered last winter to C. R. Murray, the well-known professional of The Royal Montreal Golf Club, and declined by him. Murray, it will be remembered, was on a month's tour with Mr. McLean. It is understood that the remuneration offered the Montreal expert was \$12,000 per annum.

Leo Diegel is not unknown on Canadian courses. In the Canadian Open in 1919 he was in third place with 295, that being the year the late Douglas Edgar made his record score of 278, Mr. "Bobby" Jones, Karl Keffer and "Jim" Barnes tying for second place with 294.

STANDARDIZED METHODS FOR GREENS

What is Needed is "An Authoritative Scientific Outline of the Proper Methods which Green Committees Generally Could Adopt with Full Confidence."

(By R. Stanley Weir, K. C., Montreal)

THE modern putting-green on inland courses is now, almost without exception, an artificial construction; sometimes from selected turf; more commonly from sifted loam, with proper admixture of sand and fertilizers (the latter usually superfluous); and the whole well drained and abundantly seeded with choice grass seed. How is it that, so often, notwithstanding all sorts of attention from indefatigable green-committees, our putting-greens become coarse and weedy, with abundant traces of dandelions, crab grass and other pests, which, no matter how finely cut, offer untrue putting surfaces?

The importance of the putting green in modern golf can hardly be over-estimated. Here we come to the most delicate part of play; and here, surely, we have reason to expect that a ball truly putted shall have its reward and not be turned aside by inequalities of surface. Many putts are missed, not from bad putting, but from bad putting-greens.

It ought also to be possible to give players their putting greens throughout the season without any interruptions by way of top-dressings or fertilizings or the removal of weeds, work in which anxious but unwise committees often engage. It ought not to be beyond golfing science to secure for us, throughout our short



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season of play, good putting surfaces of proper, uniform grass-texture on every green without interruptions of this nature.

Unfortunately, green-committees are too often inclined to indulge in well-meant vagaries, while striving to reach perfection; and as often happens one committee has to contend with the mistakes of its predecessors; not always recognizing the errors made and too frequently applying mistaken remedies. In short, the up-keep of putting-greens is too often a matter of unscientific opinion and method and false tradition instead of being, as it should be, the application of methods ascertained by competent authority to be correct.

The true putting surface in the inland green should approximate as closely as possible the fine texture of grass that grows out of the alluvion on a sub-base of sand, which is found on sea-side courses. The vice of our inland courses is excessive fertility of soil, often unwisely stimulated by top dressings and fertilizers, which produce a coarse, over-stimulated grass with weeds. In this country a drought of grass is exceedingly rare and can usually be prevented by watering, although an artificial water-plant is rarely worth the cost, summer rains being as a rule sufficiently plentiful. Grass is a kind of vegetation that requires, as a rule, no other stimulant than that which the soil actually supplies. Top-dressings of humus not only too often supply weed-seeds, but, when mixed with fertilizers, over-stimulate the grass to coarseness with subsequent reaction; they also spoil the true level for putting, much as they would the level of a billiard table. Sand is useful, not only because it contains no weed-seeds, but also because it tends to help to refine the grass, but ought only to be applied at the end of the

season, for two reasons: it will not then interrupt play and the summer heat cannot make it a means of scorching.

One of the annoying customs adopted in the spring and fall by many well-meaning committees should be discarded, that is, the substitution of the nuisance of temporary greens. It never does a well-drained green the slightest harm but rather good to be walked upon, and closing it up is a mere fetish. Walking always improves the surface and the roots, being well underground, are amply protected.

The whole subject, I venture to suggest, might well be referred by our golf associations to, say, our agricultural colleges for opinion and standardization. Let it be understood that for our putting-greens what we require is not a rich growth of herbage but a uniform growth of fine, closely-growing grass that will not retard the ball as many of our greens do, but encourage delicate manipulation; and let us have an authoritative, scientific outline of the proper methods which green-committees generally could adopt with full confidence. In this outline the proper treatment of the fairway, although of less importance, might also be considered.

THE ABUSE OF GOLF TERMS

WHY is it that golfers, especially golfers in Canada and the United States, can't refer to golf terms in the right way? You hear, for instance, frequently of Scotch foursomes. There is, as pointed out by Grantland Rice, the well-known United States writer, no such animal. It is either a four-ball match, with each party playing an individual ball, or a foursome, where alternate strokes are played by team mates using the same ball. How many know that a course is inland and that a links is strictly a seaside affair? Then, how often do you hear of Greens Committee when the correct term is Green Committee? All of which is true enough. The average golfer is rather casual in his knowledge or use of golf terms where, as long as one plays the game, he should at least know something of its language.

CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1923

ALREADY the definite dates for some of the 1923 Championships are announced. The Open Canadian Lady Championship will be held at Mount Bruno, the testing Montreal course, the scene of the Mens' Open this year. It will be preceded by the Canadian Ladies' Closed Championship, which will be staged at the Royal Montreal, Dixie, where the Canadian Seniors' Annual Tournament will also be held next September. The "Canadian Golfer" understands that the Closed event will be cut down next year to two days only, instead of a whole week as at Lambton this year. The Championship will be decided by medal play 36 holes—18 holes each day. This is a splendid idea, as two weeks of continuous match play as was the case last September at Toronto and Lambton, is altogether too tedious a grind for the ladies, besides making it a very long and expensive outing for them.

Lambton in 1923 is entitled to the Open Championship, but it is a question whether Winnipeg may not get the event. It is understood the Western Golfing Metropolis is anxious to stage it. The big fixture has never been held in the West and it would be in the best interests of the game to hold it there occasionally. The leading professionals, we believe, are quite in favour of Winnipeg and it would not be surprising if that city is awarded the Champonship in 1923. This would also mean the holding of the Canadian Professional Golf Association's