

THE 1927 OUTLOOK FOR GOLF IN CANADA

By JACK EVANS

TORONTO Golf and Hamilton Golf courses rated highly as tournament tests, have been secured by the Royal Canadian Golf Association for its championships of 1927, in connection with which a programme is being built to bring outstanding golfers of the American continent into competition on these noted courses.

In addition to the usual championships, the projected plans include three team contests—a match between Canadian professionals and the team which Abe. Mitchell is bringing to America in search of the Ryder Cup; an interprovincial team competition to be held just prior to the amateur championship on the Hamilton Golf course, and, finally, a revival of the international match between the United States and Royal Canadian Golf Associations to take place before the open tournament at Toronto Golf.

Then through the decision of the Canadian Women's Golf union to stage its principal tournaments in the East, Central Ontario becomes the setting in which all Canadian titles will be decided this year. Last season the Canadian women's open and close titles were won by Miss Ada Mackenzie, Mississauga, on courses in Winnipeg from a field which was distinctly Canadian. The matches failed to attract an entry from the middle western states as the Union anticipated when it attempted to promote the game in Western Canada. The titles of 1927 must be defended at Lambton Golf, Toronto, and Toronto Golf. It is possible that the matches of the Union will again draw some of the fine women golfers from the U.S. and Great Britain.

If effective, the programme of the Royal Canadian Association will mark 1927 as the most successful year of the organization. The fields for amateur and open competition will include linksmen of international reputation. The plan is to open the season with the professional match in Montreal and Toronto. The match has been the subject of more than a score of cables between the Royal Canadian Association and the Professional Golfers' Association of Great Britain since it was announced that Great Britain would send a team to the U.S. to lift the trophy, emblematic of the world's professional championship.

The interprovincial match is the association's response to the growing demand from Canadian golf that the amateur championship should be representative of the strength of the game, East and West, instead of a tournament which draws its field from the clubs of Ontario and Quebec to which are added occasionally entrants from the eastern United States. Secretary Anderson found while securing views as to the policy which the Royal Canadian association should pursue that Western Canada would give enthusiastic support to the association when the championship became Canadian. Golfers of the Prairie Provinces took considerable satisfaction from the fact that the Western Canada champion, Carson McWilliams, had defeated the best players of Eastern Canada.

Explaining that the association was endeavoring to meet sentiment expressed by the West and during the annual meeting, Mr. Anderson sent a circular some time ago to the provincial associations of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, urging these organizations to send teams of four players for a team contest which would be arranged as a curtain raiser to the Canadian amateur championship, and thus enable the representative players of Western Canada to take part in the amateur championship. The suggestion of the association has been accepted by the West.

The proposed international match has not been definitely decided on, but it has been discussed favorably by both associations. Its purpose is to revive contests between U.S. and Royal Canadian associations and also, since it is suggested that it be played in Canada this season, to add strength and color to the open tournament which has been limited to professionals of eastern America and Canadian amateurs since it was played last at Hamilton Golf in 1919 when "Chick" Evans, then America's first amateur golfer, captained a team which included R. T. "Bobby" Jones, British and United States open champion. After the match, which was won by the United States team, Jones remained for the Canadian open and finished as runner-up to Douglas Edgar, Atlanta, Ga.

Toronto Golf, chosen for the principal event of the season, is one of the oldest organizations in America. The club was formed more than fifty years ago and for many years played its matches on a piece of property in the east end of the city. Forced to vacate its property through Toronto's development, the club secured an excellent site at Long Branch where its course was built under the direction of H. S. Colt, an architect brought from Great Britain for the purpose. Since 1910, the course has been the scene of tournaments of the Royal Canadian, the Canadian Women's Golf Union, the Canadian Seniors' Association and the Ontario Golf Association.

In spite of the progress of the game, the Toronto Golf course still contains features equal to the skill of the leading players of America. The yardage is well distributed, its greens are maintained in perfect condition and it has four one-shot holes which are fine examples of golf architecture and have been improved by J. M. Lyle, a noted architect and club member. One of these holes—the 17th—has been named the Graveyard. During the open championship of 1921, it was responsible for the elimination of a number of contenders who were unequal to the task of escaping the long pits guarding the approach to the green and the dense woods to the right. A feature of the traps about the course is their water washed sand which demands a perfectly blasted shot from the golfer who should stumble into them.

Preparing for the tournament, officials of the club have had engineers provide them with exact distances and as a consequence the club's score card has been changed from an aggregate of

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Upper: Club house at Toronto Golf, where the Canadian Open will be held in August. Lower: Bobby Jones, British Open and United States Open champion, playing from the rough to the 13th hole on Hamilton Golf and Country course. When the picture was taken in 1919 Jones had merely achieved a reputation as being a golfer with a brilliant future. The Canadian Amateur will be played over Hamilton course July 4-9