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### Affairs in New England

Heavy snowstorms are not without compensations. The two heavy storms which hit Boston the second week in February, two of the worst on record for the amount which fell, could not have been more timely, so the veteran Brae-Burn Country Club greenkeeper, John Shanahan, tells me. John has been fathering the steen trillion blades of grass on the West Newton course for a quarter of a century, or thereabouts, and what he doesn't know about what turf needs isn't much worth knowing. The proof of that is not in anything that the veteran says, but rather in what he accomplishes, for Brae-Burn contrives to have the finest of putting surfaces and the best conditioned fairways, year in and year out, to be found almost anywhere. He says that before the snowstorms (and I might say we were playing golf under tolerable conditions on one or two Boston courses the last of January) the frost was in the ground to a depth of twelve to fifteen inches, and that the coining of heavy snow means that the frost will be kept there, or probably will, over the most precarious period of the year for the grasses. The danger is, in late February and early March, that the frosts will come out of the ground too early, that the underground heat will bestir the grass roots into life and send the blades shooting up too early, there to be nipped by alternate freezes and thaws or smothered and "burned" by a belated snowstorm, bringing on what is known as "winter kill." Moreover, snow is always looked upon as Nature's fertilizer.

There are certain signs which point to a season of unprecedented activity. One of these is the business done in the indoor golf schools this winter.

Fifteen or sixteen schools have from one to five nets apiece, and from one to three instructors. Some of the professionals who have taken that means of putting in their spare time of winter, instead of going south, playing and spending rather than earning, have found the indoor business so flourishing that they hardly have time to stop for luncheon. Many of the indoor patrons are taking up golf for the first time or else are taking lessons after having played for about a year. The golfer who has played a year without making much progress is the one more apt to become discouraged, and decide that he never will be able to play.

One of the interesting developments of 1926 in New England will be the inauguration of a New England amateur championship under the auspices of the newly-formed New England Golf Association, of which William F. Garcelon, ex-president of the Massachusetts Golf Association, is the head. The championship will be played July 28th to 31st at the Rhode Island Country Club at Nayatt, R. I., which was the venue of the Women's National championship two years ago. A happier choice hardly could have been made, for the R. I. C. C. course is one of the most attractive to be found in the New England District or anywhere else for that matter. A limit naturally had to be placed upon the entry list, and the executives of the new organization finally determined that Massachusetts, because of its greater number of golfers, should be privileged to have fifty entries, Rhode Island and Connecticut fifteen each, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont, seven each. Whether Francis Ouimet and Jesse Guifford can take part in the first New England tournament is a moot question. But as to the New England Amateur championship, however, there is bound to be a field of representative golfers bailing from Maine to Connecticut, and I am looking forward to a most interesting meeting, and for many more in future. It seems to me that this new organization and its major tournaments will act as a big stimulus to golf in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island.

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