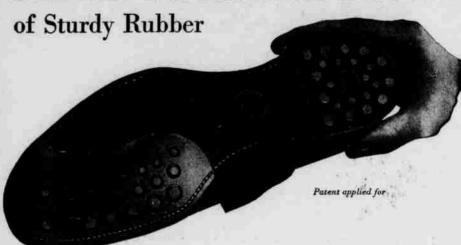
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DONALD J. ROSS OFFERS SOLUTION OF STYMIE **PROBLEM**

Silas H. Strawn of Chicago, president of the United States Golf Association in 1911 and 1912, will present at the annual meeting of the United States Golf Association in Chicago on January 14, a plan of Donald J. Ross, which Mr. Strawn considers would be a fine solution of the stymic problem. The Stymie will be given full discussion at the meeting.

Since the United States Golf Association modified the stymic so that it is in effect only when a player lays himself a stymie on the green, there has been much misunderstanding and general dissatisfaction with the rule and Mr. Ross, after making practical tests and giving much study to the subject, has devised a plan which he considers will retain the stymie and eliminate the only fault that can be found with it.

Mr. Ross outlined his plan to Mr. Strawn here this week, as follows:

"The solution of the problem, which I have arrived at after making practica! tests in which experts as well as averege amateurs have taken part, is to increase the distance when a stymic is in effect from the six inches between ball and ball (the St. Andrews rule, formerly used in the United States) to two feet between the near ball and the lele, and two feet between ball and ball.

"The most serious objection to the stymie is that it occasionally brings about an impossible shot that no amount There should of skill can overcome. not be an impossible shot in golf. If the two-foot rule were in effect it would climinate the impossible shots, for when the near ball is at least two feet from the cup and the stymied ball at least two feet from the near ball, it is always possible to negotiate the stymie by pitching over the near ball or curving around it.

"The distance of six inches between balls is arbitrary and there is no reason for it; whereas the distance of two feet is based on the possibilities of the game and is sound from every point of view. The compromise we now have in the stymie has caused more misunderstanding than any rule ever written into the rules of golf-it will never be satisfactory because the golfing public is opposed to it."

Mr. Ross stated that he had gone on putting greens with professionals and amateurs and tried various stymie shots with these players at distances from one to a dozen feet and found that when the near ball was two feet from he hole and the other ball two feet from the near ball, such stymies could be negotiated by skillful shots. He considers that legitimate stymics create as interesting a shot as there is in golf.

Mr. Ross recalls that before the stymie was practically abolished in the United States players used to obtain much pleasure from practicing this shot and that many became so expert they

(Continued on Page Eleven)

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