



*THE International Lawn Tennis Federation is not allowing the grass to grow under its feet—not even the incomparable sward of the famous centre court at Wimbledon, where championships will probably be resumed next summer. For the last traces of bomb damage have now been removed from the surface of the Wimbledon courts, which are being prepared for a resumption of international tennis.*

It is six years since there has been either a contest for the Davis Cup or a championship tournament at Wimbledon which is to British lawn tennis what Lord's is to cricket and Twickenham to Rugby football. Only in the United States, with its tennis headquarters at Forest Hills, California, has there been any tournament competition during the war, and already the Americans are anxious for an early resumption of contests for the Davis Cup, which was wrested from them by Australia in 1939. The next challenge round for the trophy will, of course, be played in Australia, but first there will have to be the usual series of elimination rounds to decide which country will send its team to meet the Australians.

It is too early yet to make guesses as to what is likely to happen next

time the Davis Cup is up on the block. With the exception of the United States, none of the major contestants has had much opportunity for taking stock of the talent it has at its disposal, and while the promotion of sport is likely to be encouraged as part of the post-war reconstruction programme it is probable that many difficulties will have to be surmounted before the pre-war routine can be restored. But the sudden termination of the war means that the position can be viewed from a new angle, with every prospect of a much earlier return to the full pre-war set-up than could have been hoped for previously.

Since 1902 the United States has had the greatest number of successes in the Davis Cup challenge round (the final contest between the holders and the country which, by the elimination of the rest of the field, has earned the right of challenge). The United States has won eleven times, Britain nine times, Australia (or Australasia) seven times, and France six times. The trophy was in the possession of the United States continuously from 1920 to 1926—the Tilden era—while France, due to the brilliance of Lacoste, Cochet, Borotra and Brugnon, held it for six years from 1927 to 1932. Britain, with F. J. Perry and H. W. Austin dominating the scene, had it for four years