

The GOLF COURSE

PUBLISHED AT

25 WEST 45TH STREET, NEW YORK

BY

PETERSON, SINCLAIRE & MILLER, Inc.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

CARTER'S TESTED SEEDS, Inc.

Copyright, 1916, by

Peterson, Sinclair & Miller, Inc., and
Carter's Tested Seeds, Inc.

R. O. SINCLAIRE, *Editor*

Vol. II JANUARY, 1917 No. 1

WE trust this year that we will find fewer changes than usual in the personnel of Green Committees.

A new chairman of a Green Committee means, in too many instances, the adoption of different policies and methods than those favored by the predecessor and this in most cases proves disastrous to the attainment of the best results.

Just a few days ago we received an interesting letter regarding this matter from an official of a prominent Club and the sentiments he expressed struck us very forcibly. We do not believe they could well be disputed.

This gentleman's ideas were in brief that a club should, after careful deliberation, decide on a policy and carry it thru as completely as possible. If Architectural changes are contemplated, a first class Golf Architect should be consulted and his plans followed to the letter. If, on the other hand, the problem confronting the Club has to do merely with the improvement of turf conditions, a specialist along these lines should be sought and his advice just as carefully adhered to. Once sure of being on the right track the committee in charge should never deviate from the adopted policy unless it is conclusively proven after a thorough trial that the methods being employed are wrong.

Many members of a club fail to show the proper amount of patience—they are constantly complaining to the Green Committee of things they often know nothing about and it is no wonder that the average Chairman considers his job a thankless one. Would, that this class of members, known in the Club as "Kickers," could wake up to their own responsibility for much that goes wrong. One among their number is often purposely chosen to act on a committee, and tho this is doubtless an act of satisfaction to those who have reaped more than their share of blame, it is nevertheless a foolish procedure, for the "Kicker" is seldom qualified for the position wished upon him.

It is gratifying to note that clubs are gradually overcoming the fault of choosing a committeeman simply because he happens to be a popular Club member, or perhaps has more leisure time than others. It is far better to appoint a man who knows something of the subject to be dealt with, even if he cannot devote all the time that might be desired to the duties of his office.

If it is necessary to replace the Chairman of a Green Committee, he should be chosen from among the members of the committee who have worked along with the retiring Chairman and is therefore familiar with his methods and the general policy which is being carried out. Even if this policy is not the very best one imaginable, it is usually far better to cling to it than to keep constantly changing from year to year and never have a really definite idea of the object to be attained.

Not only is it necessary for your Greenkeeper to be efficient, but he must know what is wanted of him and should not be handicapped by contradictory orders from several members of a committee not in harmony or a newly appointed Chairman each year, who has totally different ideas than his predecessor.