AUGUST 19th witnessed the gathering of the greenkeeping clan at Washington for the annual summer meeting of the United States Golf Association Green Section. A good crowd turned out for the occasion and was blessed by that rare event in Washington—a cool August day. The morning was spent in an intensive inspection of the green section experimental turf garden at Arlington Farms, the experimental grounds maintained by the government just on the edge of the city of Washington. Dr. Monteith and his associate, Mr. Welton did the honors and to those who knew the Doc in his more bashful days it is enough to say that the old boy has become very clever in piloting the crowd.

The experimental turf gardens at Arlington are intensely interesting to any one sufficiently familiar with the problems besetting those charged with the maintenance of fine turf in this country. In fact a visit to the gardens will net you information exactly in proportion to what you know about the fundamentals of turf management. If you don’t know much you won’t learn much, if you know your stuff you can learn a whole heap more.

The north end of the garden is laid out in an extensive series of plats planted to practically every species and strain of grass which will do anything at all in the Washington climate. This layout came in for a great deal of inspection and comment.

Putt Test Explodes Old Notion.

During the course of the morning Monteith gave a demonstration of the machine devised for testing any given turf for its putting qualities. It consists essentially of a pendulum which swings with mechanical precision and hits the golf ball as would be the case with a legitimate putt on a green. The mechanical swing of the pendulum being the same in all cases the trueness of direction taken by the ball in its passage across the turf together with the distance traveled by the ball as indicative of the resistance offered by the turf all combine to say whether a given turf area is fast or slow. Monteith drew attention to the fact that there was a general impression among golfers that stolon bent greens offered greater resistance to the ball and were harder to putt on but with the aid of this mechanical putter he showed that up or down hill the ball went

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MID-SUMMER MEETS

Record attendance marks the first outdoor meet at Chicago

By HERB GRAFFIS

ALMOST 300 attended the first of the mid-summer meetings of the Green Section, inaugurated August 26, as an annual event to be held at the Mill Road Farm experimental station for the benefit of course maintenance in the central states. Greenkeepers from Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Kentucky, Iowa and Ohio, and many chairmen from these states gave the new station an inspection, looked over A. D. Lasker’s private golf course and played it. They had the work and aims of the national green section and the Chicago District green section presented to them by Dr. John Montelth, Jr., Kenneth Welton and C. M. Harrison of the U. S. G. A. Green Section and Guy Peters, chairman of the Chicago group.

Dr. Montelth opened the outdoor session by displaying several glass tubes in which various typical soils were contained. The bottoms of these tubes had been immersed in water. The demonstration vividly showed the slow movement of water in clay, the fast travel of water in sand, and the various performances of water in other soils. It was a simple and striking reminder of the necessity of varying watering practice according to the soils. Although the station at Mill Road Farm has not been established long enough to be the source of any information that might be uniquely applicable to its section of the country, it has served to check many observations at Arlington, according to Montelth. He went over the various details of the layout with the crowd and dwelt especially on some of the plots of the same turf, cut to different lengths. Short cutting, so Montelth pointed out, affected fescue unfavorably, but did no damage to the bents. Harrison showed a very interesting array of root growth specimens to reveal the effect of short and long cutting.

Plan Snow Mold Tests

Arrangements are being made for conducting snow mold tests at Mill Road this winter, said Dr. Montelth. He also stated that seed tests were to be conducted on seeds of the same grasses, but from different sources. He emphasized that all grasses were getting an even start at the new station, so all possibility of erroneous conclusions due to varying initial conditions had been eliminated.

An exceedingly interesting demonstration of the putting machine was staged. It was shown that the various seeded and stolon greens varied but slightly in their

Some of the record crowd at the first Mill Road Farm meeting of the U. S. G. A. Green Section.
putting speed. To many of the visitors the tests with the old and new ball were most impressive. The larger and lighter ball goes nearly 7% farther on a level putt. On a slight down-hill slope it goes 18 inches farther than the present legal ball on approximately a 15-foot putt.

A Complete Laboratory

The Lasker golf course itself affords many opportunities of education in means and methods. Although the course is but two years old its condition would do great credit to that of clubs four times older. The greenkeepers who looked it over considered it a shining example of what could be done with money to spend correctly in the early stages rather than spread the same amount of money over a long period of years without ever attaining the shape the Lasker layout is in at the present time. Shining examples of what soil conditioning will do were evident to those who wandered into some of the heavy rough of the incoming nine. A few feet away from properly treated fairways in excellent condition, there was the untreated soil of the rough, cracked open wide enough to lose a caddie.

Lasker, starting his business career as a Texas newspaperman, became the head of one of the largest advertising agencies in the world, and the chairman of the U. S. Shipping Board by virtue of being able to show people how to get plenty for their money. It is his hope that the Green Section station to which he has given a ten year lease on his property, will function notably in the same respect. In talking informally with a group of greenkeepers he stressed the possibilities of maintenance savings as the result of conclusions arrived at by the Green Section's work at the station. He cited the greens at his own course as an example. As uniformly true putting surfaces these greens have been put by Supt. Tregillus in condition that defies reasonable criticism. This work, however, on this particular strain, requires such a heavy maintenance expense that eventually the greens are due for replacement. Due to the great difficulty of correctly identifying the strains of bent the Lasker course didn't get what the buyer and seller both thought was being supplied and such errors as this have no place in any enterprise that calls for operation on a business basis, Lasker maintains.

So much publicity has been given the excellence and exclusiveness of the Lasker course that the Green Section visitors fairly mobbed in accepting the invitation to play it. Almost 50 foursomes competed for the prizes given by the U. S. G. A. Green Section. Contestants were in such a hurry to get going that in many cases the alignment of green-chairmen and greenkeepers was not registered on the scoreboard. This left a job for Alex Binnie, Alex Law and "Hap" Martin, in determining the winner of the chairman-greenkeepers prize.

Peters Pilots Diners

The meeting concluded with a dinner at the new clubhouse of the Onwentsia club, with Guy Peters presiding as chairman. W. A. Alexander, one of the prime movers in the organization of the Green Section and a dean of green-chairmen, opened the evening session. Alexander dates back in mid-western golf far enough to have "fit the pesky redskins off this land" on which now are some of the prize golf courses of the Chicago district. He commented on the fact that golf, thru governmental participation in Green Section activities, is the one popular sport that gets the government's financial help. He stated that golf had made American sport conscious

Kenneth Welton of the Green Section and C. A. Tregillus, superintendent of Mill Road Farm, demonstrate the green testing-putting machine.
and paid high tribute to the pro and green-keeper as vital factors in the continual growth of the game.

C. A. Tregillus, superintendent of the Mill Road Farm and formerly operating head of the Canadian Green Section, spoke briefly on the work at the Lasker course and experimental station. He told of the intention to tackle problems peculiar to the midwest. In telling of the turf garden construction he related that there was no tile under the experimental plots. Tregillus put in a lot of hard work in making the first outdoor meeting in central territory and to him and his chief, Lasker, thanks and credit was given in full measure.

Guy Peters suggested that the Green Section work on the problem of watering fairways without having the fairways go heavily into clover. He suggested that others make suggestions for Green Section work. The problem of too much clover on watered fairways was one that the St. Louis delegation, headed by Eberhard Anheuser and Walter Reed, shared with the Chicago bunch. Other troubles mentioned were dandelions, plantain, ants and gophers. The greenkeepers suggested that the Green Section go into the matter of proper cutting length further in carrying out the work mentioned by young Harrison of the Section during the morning demonstration.

Jack Patterson of Midlothian was called upon to tell of his experience with arsenate of lead and his testimony concerning the material for weed, grub and worm control in the Chicago district made many "believers." Jack also had some practical statements to offer on drainage, emphasizing the point that surface drainage on slopes wasn't sufficient if one wanted to get good turf at these locations; sub-surface drainage bringing water to the grass roots, was necessary.

Dr. Monteith dwelt upon the plans of the Green Section for sectionalizing its work so it would be eminently applicable to each location and showed what the Section was up against due to its limited funds. He cited the case of a Florida greenkeeper's complaint about the Section not doing enough in Florida. Each club member of the Green Section pays $30 a year to the Section. In Florida there are 14 members (of which the complainant's club was not one). This made a total of $420 a year from Florida, where the Green Section spent $900 last year. The citation was illuminating. Monteith told of some of the expenses of turf laboratory work and quickly disillusioned any who might have thought that an experimental station could be run properly on a shoestring.

Alex Binnie, president of the Midwest Greenkeepers' association announced that all visitors would be welcome at any of the Midwest's member courses the following day and in closing activities of a crowded session lauded John MacGregor, first president of the Midwest, for his work in stirring up the central states to a keen interest and effort in better golf course maintenance.

J. B. Buckner, Sprinkler Maker, Dies

FRESNO, Calif.—J. B. Buckner, sales manager of the Buckner Mfg. Co., which is headed by his father, died of heart failure August 12. Young Buckner was widely known by greenkeepers in all parts of the country, his likeable personality and knowledge of his business of golf course watering winning him a welcome everywhere.

His passing at a time when he was coming into the rich years of his career is greatly lamented by his host of friends in the golf field.

Northeastern New York Pros Promote Glen Falls Open

GLEN FALLS (N. Y.) C. C. and the Northeastern New York P. G. A. will hold a 72 hole open event Sept. 16 and 17 at the Glen Falls course which is 200 miles north of New York City at the headwaters of the Hudson. Prize money to the extent of $1,670 is offered, divided fifteen ways, with the winner taking $600 and the last five $20 apiece. Entry fee is $5. Entries close Wednesday, Sept. 11, with Ben Lord, the Glen Falls pro.
The speed of decomposition of the manure in the upper 3 inches of the soil is much greater than the same manure in a compost pile, at least 4 to 1. Furthermore, the decomposition product in the case of the soiling method is much more desirable because the decomposing action has taken place in an atmosphere abounding in oxygen with the result that decomposition is natural, complete and the ultimate product is free from toxins.

So much for the preparation of top-dressing material under those propitious conditions embodying a plentiful supply of manure. The same general system can be followed for the preparation of top-dressing when animal manure is scarce or entirely unavailable and I propose to discuss the soiling method involving the plowing under of green crops in lieu of manure in a future article. The green crop method is sound, simple and cheap but not quite as rapid in action as is the case when manure is available.

Hold Mid-Summer Meeting
at Arlington

(Continued from page 24)
as far with a given putt impetus on stolon bent as it did on other types of turf.

An extensive series of fertilizer tests at Arlington, Montelth has been in tough luck this year in that there hasn't been nearly enough brown-patch infection at the station to make good experimental conditions. Never mind Doc, there's another year coming.

Make Inspection Tour.

Shortly after noon the visitors began to drift back to Washington for luncheon and in the afternoon various groups embarked on visits to the leading golf clubs around Washington. The writer in company with three tried and trusted friends paid an extended visit to the Columbia C. C., one of
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In conclusion I cannot refrain from giving voice to my subconscious reactions to the Green Section turf gardens at Washington and the experimental work being conducted there. I am prompted to this course of action by the undercurrent of remarks—which I could hardly fail to hear at the meeting. There is a pronounced feeling in the greenkeeping profession that the work of the green section at Arlington is in danger of degenerating into a hackneyed and routine nature. In other words the work there is the same old story, nothing new. That this reaction on the part of the greenkeepers is reasonably justified cannot be entirely denied but I am wondering just how much the greenkeepers know of the situation in which the technical staff of the Green Section is placed at the present time and in fact for several years back. I make this statement because it has always been my experience that greenkeepers as a whole are a mighty fair bunch of sports and when they make criticism of any given thing it is either entirely justified or else they are not posted on all the facts. I am therefore going to take this opportunity of posting them as regards the true situation facing the technical staff of the green section.

As you all know it costs money to accomplish anything in this world and experimental work on turf is no exception. Monteith and his staff are slaving to make a decent showing with just about 25 per cent of the money they should really have for the purpose. I consider Monteith as one of the outstanding research men in today’s turf work, but as matters now stand he is so tied up with routine jobs that he gets mighty little chance to tackle the sort of work he really should be doing. The same holds good for the other members of the staff. Of course you don’t get any intimation of all this from Monteith but I have been in the technical game too many years to be blind to this sort of a situation and it is so obvious that it hurts. As matters stand today the Green Section is understaffed as regards technical men, the organization is underfinanced and consequently it is suffering.