How To Pick A Greenkeeper

By A. C. STATT

Green-Chmn, The CC, Minneapolis

MR. GREEN-CHAIRMAN, if you were required to select a new greenkeeper and interview applicants for the position, what qualifications would you require the most desirable candidate possess? What yardstick would you measure him by?

Does this simple question stagger you as it did me? Are you immediately impressed with your own lack of knowledge of a good greenkeeper's qualifications, as I was? Your answers to both questions I am sure will be yes.

Now suppose we get down to that task confronting you when you are faced with the responsibility of selecting a man for the greenkeeping job at your club. We know many of the questions an applicant is required to answer, such as past experience, personal habits, ability to handle men, physical condition, willingness to work more than the usual eight hours a day, salary, etc. All these are important questions. Are you now qualified to ask him the important technical questions?

Here Are Some Questions

Would you ask him what treatment he would use on one type of brown-patch and when and how he would apply that treatment? Would you ask him what is meant by a 10-6-4 fertilizer? Would you require him to list the major items of equipment needed for the maintenance of your golf course? You probably would ask him to furnish a budget for a season's upkeep, as that is always in the minds of business men, but would you think to ask him such simple question as the comparative capacity of a one inch and two inch water pipe? How about his knowledge of eradication of weeds? How would you appraise the applicant's knowledge of such problems?

Would your own ignorance of course maintenance technicalities dictate that you miss learning what the applicant knew about many problems which test greenkeepers? Are you in a position to gauge the applicant's ability to direct the handling of various phases of maintenance, such as drainage, fertilization, carpentry, tree pruning and surgery, upkeep of tools and machinery, golf course construction, watering, grass culture, playing conditions, insects and their eradication, record-keeping, seeding, stolonizing and many other factors?

GSA Will Know

Now if you did ask all these questions, would you yourself know if you received the correct answers? Surely you would not. But there is an agency to assist you in the difficult task of inventorying greenkeeping knowledge. The Greenkeeping Superintendents Association has developed a system of determining the qualifications of applicants of membership in that association. After considerable study and analysis of greenkeeper’s jobs the Association has established complete examinations based on a point system. Examining boards are being set up in golfing centers throughout the country, and applicants to GSA membership must score at least 85 points out of a possible 145 points to become eligible for membership. The examination consists of three parts:

| Points | Part 1 consists of the time of service, with a maximum of | 45 |
| Points | Part 2 consists of a written test, with a maximum of | 20 |
| Points | Part 3 consists of an oral test, with a maximum of | 80 |
| Points | Total | 145 |

This examination, in addition to being a practical measure for determining the scope of a job candidate's practical and advanced knowledge, I understand also is highly regarded by many greenkeepers of unquestionably high professional and performance rating as determining to what extent they have kept pace with the technical advance in their profession. The policy is one that might well be more generally applied in all businesses, particularly those that have had a technical progress similar to that registered by golf course maintenance in the past decade.

The chairman contemplating the scope and significance of the GSA examinations may wince as he wonders how he might rate were such an examination to be made
The Lytton Building

SCORES AGAIN!

The Lytton Building, known nationally as headquarters for golf, announces another addition to its all-star golfing lineup—

ATLANTIC PRODUCTS COMPANY
of Trenton, N. J.

Chicago office of the above concern is now located in the golfing atmosphere that golf companies, golf publishers, and golf associations in this building create.

Your Chicago Office Should Be Here!

Reduce your sales effort! Locate in the Lytton Building and ‘cash in’ on the drawing power of golf’s most famous address—14 E. Jackson Blvd. Let us tell you ALL the advantages of being in

THE LYTTON BUILDING
Golf’s Most Famous Address
14 E. Jackson Blvd. Chicago