Tyson Talks on Fairways at Midwest GA Meeting

PROF. JAMES TYSON, Michigan State College, Lansing, Mich., served as star witness in a question-and-answer forum following his talk on "Fairway Turf", at the Midwest Greenkeepers Ass'n recent monthly meeting.

Tyson lead off with a strong tribute to wartime golf as a needed form of recreation. For meeting emergency upkeep problems 1 1/2 in. cut for fairway turf was recommended as ideal. Results from two test plots, planted to Kentucky bluegrass a year ago last fall, were reviewed by Tyson. Both were given identical watering and feedings. One was cut at 1 1/2 in. the other at 2 in. The low-cut plot became hard and weedy; the longer cut turf was heavier, remained soft and weed free, but required more frequent cutting.

For fairway purposes, however, Tyson suggested the 1 1/2 in. cut, as most practical from standpoint of play and healthy growth through periods when regular feeding schedules no longer could be followed. As the grass blade serves as the manufacturing plant, the longer the blade the bigger the production. While the longer blade increases turf growth and necessitates more frequent mowing it has its advantages in developing thicker turf, retarding weeds, and furnishing a softer tread for the players. Thus, greenkeepers must strike a satisfactory balance between labor shortage and what is best for the turf.

Use Clippings for Compost

To help overcome fertilizer shortage, Tyson reminded his audience that decayed grass clippings, mixed with soil, could be utilized as a valuable source of turf food. His method is to alternate a layer of clippings with a layer of soil and let the clippings rot right with the soil; then run through compost machine. The clippings contain approximately 20 per cent nitrogen.

On the subject of watering, Tyson suggested an average of 1 in. per week as adequate for average soil, both for bluegrass and bent. His plots are watering during the day, whereas most courses prefer night watering as a matter of convenience to players and work crews. Less frequent slow but thorough watering, he has found, gives most efficient and economical results. Asked how often bent greens should be cut in cases where war conditions necessitated closing the course
RECREATION VITAL

There is a limit to the durability of mind, body and morale unless they are periodically rehabilitated. That rehabilitation derives from recreation. The British long since have discovered that there is a point of diminishing returns which is reached when men and women apply themselves too rigorously to the job grindstone. Opportunities for recreation must be made available despite the war pressure which America is under. We will have reached a new height of fallacy if anyone is ever permitted to persuade us that recreation is a war time non-essential.

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for play, but greens and fairway turf is to be preserved, Tyson advised against letting bent go to seed before cutting as bent does not seed in keeping with its strain. Thus, when a green which had been permitted to seed is brought back, it will be quitted and uncertain in playing quality.

Pix to USGA Museum.—Over 30,000 photographs from the morgues of GOLFDOM and GOLFING magazines, and from the defunct "Golf Illustrated" and "American Golfer" magazines, have been presented to the USGA museum by GOLFDOM and GOLFING and Robert E. Harley. The photographic files are of comprehensive historical value and concern golf in all parts of the world.

THE CLEARING HOUSE

For years, these small classified advertisements in GOLFDOM have been productive. Now, under war conditions, they are even more effective for courses and clubs needing experienced employees or second hand equipment; able pros, greenkeepers, and managers in search of employment; selling or leasing semi-public layouts; etc.

Rates are extremely reasonable—just 10c a word, with a minimum of $2.50, payable in advance. Use this service; send ad before February 25 for the next issue of GOLFDOM.

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For Lease—9 hole semi-public golf course with bent greens and all maintenance equipment. Modern clubhouse and living quarters. No other course within 35 miles. $1,000 for the season; members patronage assures continued activity during war. Address: Ad 201, % Golfdom, Chicago.

Foreign Course Scenes Wanted.—If you have photographs or other illustrations of golf courses in enemy or occupied countries, the United States government would like to get this material. Some illustrations picked up by golfers on their travels abroad already have been contributed. Should you have some of this material, write to Office of Strategic Services, Station G, Box 46, New York, N. Y., describing the views shown. They will advise you if they would like the photos sent on.

CMAA Cancels '43 Convention.—Board of Directors of the Club Managers Ass'n of America has notified its members that the 1943 meeting, scheduled for Omaha, will not be held.