

# *How We Manage at Cedar Brook*

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**I**N writing about one's own course it may be permissible, but not proper, to let oneself be carried away by being over-zealous in extolling the natural beauty and wonderful condition of the greens and fairways. However, like the "little spot in Ireland," the little spot called "Cedar Brook," situated in Scarboro, just east of the city of Toronto, is one of natural beauty. A rustic stream, tributary of the Highland Creek, winds its way beautifully in and out through a most picturesque valley, dividing the landscape, the topography of which is of a gently rolling nature and ideally suited for golfing.

## *Developing the Fairways*

The property consists of 159 acres, the course itself covering approximately 129 acres, and the balance of 30 acres is beautifully wooded with oaks, maples, cedar, pines, and beech. About a hundred acres were ploughed up and seeded in 1923 with a mixture of 20 per cent Chewings Fescue, 40 per cent Kentucky Blue Grass and 40 per cent Red Top, which was sown at the rate of 250 pounds per acre.

The soil the nature of which is medium heavy clay has a small area containing good sandy loam. Weather conditions were favourable and a good catch of grass was secured. Today the fairways are equal to those of many clubs much older. An application of bone meal fertilizer at the rate of 500 to 600 pounds to the acre was applied in the spring of 1927 and the fairways cross-disked with the cultipacker. The effect has been very noticeable in filling up bare spots, and the grass is rapidly thickening up.

## *Maintaining Bent Greens*

The greens at first were all of a temporary nature and seeded with a regular grass seed mixture for putting greens. Nine greens have been rebuilt in more suitable locations, and planted out with bent grass stolons which have turned out to be most satisfactory in every way, and far superior to the ordinary type of seeded green. The qualities for a bent grass green when properly managed are as follows: even texture,—smoother putting surface,—more resistance to winter kill,—less liable to



*Right, John Anderson; left, M. A. Chadwick*

disease,—eliminates weeds and weeding by producing a heavy covering,—uniform color.

Light and frequent applications of sulphate of ammonia about every two weeks, and top dressing with good sandy loam has been found to be very beneficial in keeping this type of green in first class condition.

An abundance of water is necessary as the natural home of bent grass is in low lying land, and along stream banks and beds where there is an abundance of moisture. This type of green cannot be successfully taken care of unless a water supply is available, with which to continually use a sprinkler system, as water is one of the most important items of maintenance.

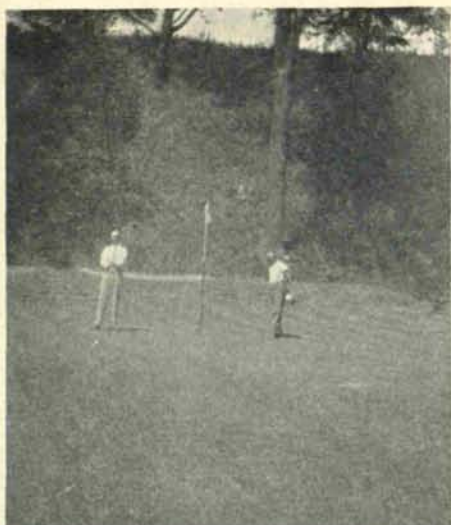
## *Experimenting with Seed From Nursery*

A supply of Washington strain bent stolons was secured three years ago and a bent grass nursery planted out, which has supplied most of the bent for our new greens and has saved the club many dollars. An excellent supply of bent was secured from Mr. Alan Bland, Colbourne Street, Toronto, which has been most satisfactory in every way. An experiment is being conducted this season by saving the bent seed from the nursery which should turn out to be very pure, but nothing can be said about this until an opportunity to test the germination is conducted.

## *Tree and Sod Nurseries*

A tree nursery of about 7000 seedlings of different varieties secured from the Government three years ago, was planted out, and an additional 7000 were put in again this year. These young trees will be very valuable

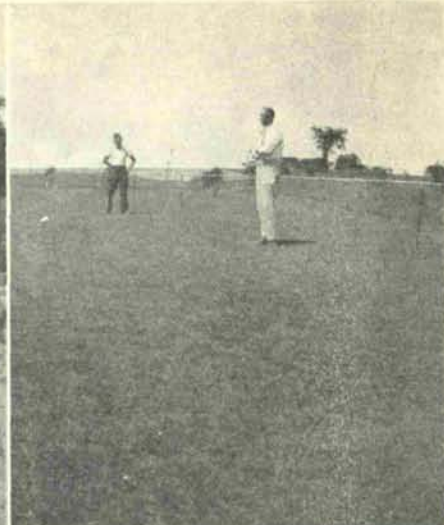




*New Number Seven Bent Green at Cedar Brook. Mr. Chadwick, left, Mr. Anderson, right*



*Mr. Anderson in his Tree Nursery*



*Showing Skinner System of Sprinkling used to start Number 8 along at Cedar Brook*

assets in the future for the purposes of reforestation and beautifying the grounds. Shrubs of many kinds have been planted for the purpose of slipping and propagation in the future.

A sod nursery is a most important item, as frequently patches of grass in both fairways and greens become killed out from various causes and it is a big relief to know that these patches can be repaired quickly and effectively by re-sodding, thus preventing unsightly scars.

#### ***Installed a Good Water System***

A water system installation of the air pressure type with an electric motor and automatic electric control together with an auxiliary gasoline engine, in the event of the electric current failing has been found to work exceedingly well. Five controls radiate from the pump house to different sections of the course, the main pipe lines consisting of 2 inch pipe and gradually reducing to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch at the end of the line. Each control line operates five or six greens, one section going direct to the club house building.

Pumping equipment is the Worthington heavy duty type, with a seven-horse power Century motor controlled by a Cutler-Hammer automatic switch coupled to a magnetic control.

#### ***Distribution of Labor***

The course maintenance is taken care of by a staff of 10 men. Four men attend to the eighteen greens which are all cut with hand machines, each man taking 4 or 5 greens according to size. Each man is responsible for the condition of his allotted greens and also attends to the weeding, fertilizing, matting, top-dressing, etc. One man is responsible for cutting the tees and moving discs every morning and scythes or does other necessary work when required. One man with a Staude tractor

and 5-gang Shawnee mowing equipment, looks after the fairways and part of the rough. One man cuts the rough on hillsides and other parts of the course with a one-horse hay mower. One man with a Staude tractor, which is used as a power plant for driving compost machines to screen top-dressing material, along with two extra men take care of the preparation of top-dressing material, a good supply of which is always kept on hand, because bent grass greens require more frequent top-dressing than ordinary grass greens.

The five new greens constructed last year are all well trapped and the greater the number of traps and bunkers on the course the greater will be the maintenance cost in proportion.

#### ***Temporary Water System for New Plantings***

One new green, number 8, has been constructed this year. This green is located in an orchard and trapped on both sides. Two weeks' time was taken to mould the green and traps and stolons were planted on June 15th. Today, six weeks afterwards, there is almost a solid mat of grass and this green will be in condition to play on about August the 31st, or ten weeks from the time of planting. The Skinner over-head irrigation system of watering was used by us for the first time on this green, and proved to be a great labor saver.

Machinery and equipment of all kinds must be kept in first class condition for the best results. Repairs and overhauling are done during the winter months. In handling a staff of men I encourage co-operation, strict discipline, and select as nearly as possible the men who are best suited for each particular job.

I am enclosing some snapshots of some of the greens along with one of our Secretary, Mr. M. A. Chadwick, who has assisted me in writing this article.