

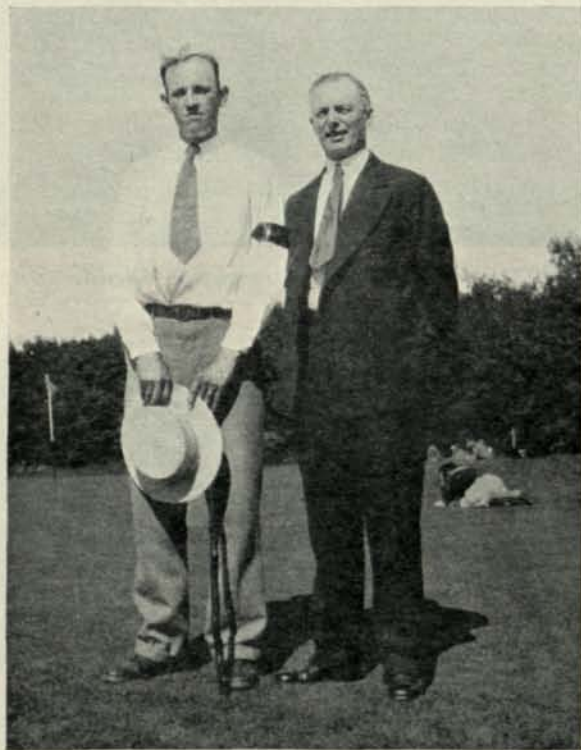
How About It?

By ALEX McWHINNIE

Greenkeeper Morrison Country Club, Morrison, Illinois

JOHN MORLEY, writing in our last issue of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER says, "It is up to the greenkeepers to find the cause of the brown patch disease." At the same time he contributes a very interesting article on the subject, and requests the greenkeepers to follow his example.

When you stop to consider the very large number of golf courses we have, the difference in location, soils, construction, methods of maintenance, watering, fertilizing, topdressing, etc., and all, or most of them attacked more or less with the brown patch, it makes one wonder what else there is to try in order to find the cause and



BOB FARMER OF WINNETKA AND ALEX McWHINNIE OF MORRISON

Who acted as marshals at the Walker Cup Matches, Chicago.

prevent it. Everything considered it looks like a big task, but, if the members of our association will tackle it with the same persistency that the brown patch attacks our greens, we will eventually win out.

We must not be timid or sensitive, for many times alarming and beneficial results have been obtained through experiments that at first seemed foolish. At the present time I am changing the construction of a green that has not done very well because of faulty construction. The location of this green makes a very good golf hole, and is also excellent for the brown patch, being close and muggy day and night for weeks at a time. Be-

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fore finishing this green, I explained to my Green committee chairman, Mr. E. A. Smith, the aim and object of our association, told him of John Morley's request, and asked him if I might be allowed to use a part of that green for an experiment. Mr. Smith readily agreed saying it was the only way to get a solution of the problem.

On this green I am topping a part of it with a mixture of equal parts of top soil and cinders that have been screened through a one-quarter inch mesh, to a depth of about eight inches. This structure being very granular the pore space is increased and air and water will pass more freely. At present I have a plot of practically the same structure that I planted recently with both bent stolons and seed that is doing very well. Whether it will produce a good turf remains to be seen.

My object in using so many cinders and what I am hoping for through this experiment, is to decrease the density of the turf, and increase the rigidity of the plants, at the same time believing that when we can produce a turf of good healthy rigid plants that will stand up and breathe under all weather conditions, our troubles may be over. Who knows?

Heretofore our interest has been in how to control the brown patch. Our president has asked us to do something toward preventing it. "How about it?"

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