

Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

THE mid-winter tournament situation in and around Los Angeles might be termed one of suspense as far as several greenkeepers are concerned.

The venue of the Los Angeles Open has not been determined at the present writing and the tournament is to be played early in January of next year. The Wilshire, Riviera, Hillcrest, and Los Angeles Country clubs seem to be the most likely possibilities in the eyes of the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce which stands sponsor for the annual event.

The courses at these clubs are of championship design; the care given to greens, tees, and fairways is excellent; the grounds are possessed of facilities for handling large crowds; and each is securely fenced so as to insure the collection of an entrance fee from all the spectators.

Two considerations are delaying the final selection of the tournament place. One is that the golf officials are unwilling to give would-be prize winners too good an opportunity to become accustomed to the course where the match is to be played. The other is that the clubs themselves are unwilling to surrender their courses to the playing of the event.

The objections are based upon the sad experience of clubs which have held the tourney in the past. It has never been a money-making proposition; much damage has been done to the grounds by careless galleries; and the regular members have been unable to play their daily game.

Furthermore the cash usually is won by some player who goes somewhere else to spend it. As one greenkeeper expressed the situation, "The club that weakens first will be the one to get the tournament."

The delay, however, is hard on the course superintendent who finally is assigned the task of getting his course ready for the affair. What easily could be a two-month job will have to be crammed into about two weeks.

The Northwest Greenkeepers' Association recently elected the following officers at their annual meeting: Fred Starrett, president; Hans Moen, Broadmoor, vice-president; and Alex Boyd, Rainier, secretary.

* * *

The greenkeepers of Southern California have decided to buy a compound microscope as their first piece of laboratory equipment and with it they intend to look into some of the matters that have been vexing them for some time.

* * *

It is astonishing to what ends some Coast golf courses have gone in order to stave off financial disaster and yet keep on running.

It is interesting to note, however, that one course in Southern California which has kept up to practically a pre-depression schedule as far as expenditure is concerned, asserts that it has lost less members than any other club in the district because of economic conditions.

Canadian News

By J. H. EVANS, *Golf Editor*

Toronto Globe

THE qualities of a suitable turf for golf fairways and putting surfaces provided the subject of discussion at a recent meeting of the Empire Club of Toronto where the New Zealand Trade Commissioner, seeking an outlet for the products of his Dominion, urged the Canadian golfer to insist on Chewings fescue for fairway and green. The Trade Commissioner attended the meeting to solicit business for his country and included the popular seed among the commodities which Canada might import in larger quantities.

The question of trade between Canada and New Zealand has become a topic of more than usual interest due to the decision of the newly elected government in Canada to place a tariff on butter from New Zealand which in return retaliated with measures affecting the Canadian automobile industry. Shut out from the Canadian market, the New Zealand farmer manufactured cheese for the British Isles and struck another blow at the Canadian dairy industry. As a consequence, the New Zealand Trade Commissioners proposal was followed keenly and secured some support from those present, the majority of them golfers.

* * *

A Canadian merchant paid a compliment to the high qualities of Chewings fescue which was used for lawns, parks and golf courses in New Zealand and he said, it had been found to be the best in the world for Canadian fairways because it was close growing and had the special virtue of holding the golf ball up from the ground. During the discussion it was discovered that New Zealand produced over two and three quarter million



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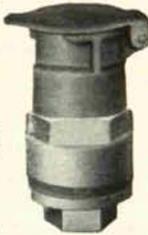
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pounds of the seed and marketed it all over the world. Canada bought more than \$60,000 worth of the seed and in turn sold an equal amount of Canadian clover to its sister Dominion.

"What strikes us particularly about this item of information is that the New Zealand grass holds the ball well up from the ground which is good news from the Commissioner for the indifferent player who finds difficulty in lifting the elusive sphere. In future we shall play on no course unless it is carpeted with Chewings fescue," stated an editorial writer of a Canadian daily newspaper.

With a trade commissioner booming the merits of fescue and a band of business men, all of them golfers willing to listen to his pleas and arguments, it is possible that the New Zealand fescue might become a still more popular seed for the Canadian course, even taking the place of bent and its many varieties. But if it is possible it is not likely yet, according to greenkeepers who read the Trade Commissioner's arguments for fescue.

Greenkeepers are prepared to admit that the fescue advocated as perfect for Canadian courses is ideal for the fairway, but they are not yet convinced the Canadian golfer has lost his faith in bent for his putting greens. The fescue was a predominating grass in Canada for many years; in fact the greens of a number of well known courses were sown with it. Perhaps the fact that bent was a matter of experiment still in Canada caused the trade commissioner to come forward with his argument for a wider use of the grass.

"For years fescue was a predominating grass on Canadian courses. Only of recent years have we gone in for the bent grass," said Secretary Bert Hawkins. "All greens on the Lakeview course are fescue. As for bent it will not stand close cutting in Canada. Fescue is fine for the fairway. No matter what its qualities may be, I doubt if those clubs which are turning to and using bent will do away with it. The Canadian golfer likes it. On the other hand when you have fescue you know what you have. When you use bent in Canada a greenkeeper is not certain of what the result will be."

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So it seems that it will take more than a Trade Commissioner's views to cause the Canadian greenkeeper to bring his experiments with bent to an end and turn to a grass because it means trade with a sister Dominion.

* * *

The qualities of different grasses will provide a subject for discussion monthly among greenkeepers this winter. The arrangement they have made for their meetings until the season of 1932 opens is that a greenkeeper from a prominent club will deliver a short address on conditions which he observed during 1931 after which the meeting will be thrown open for discussion. In view of the conditions which prevailed during the summer of 1931 the qualities of different grasses will prove the item of discussion.

Although it is November, fairways and greens are almost in the same condition as midsummer. The prediction of an early winter after an excessively hot summer has not been fulfilled and the golfer is still able to play on permanent greens. Greenkeepers report that there is as much golf as during the height of the season and that courses are in excellent shape due to plenty of rain and mild weather.

Western New York News

By ARTHUR STEPHEN

THE Western New York Greenkeepers' Association held its annual meeting and election of officers at Hotel Richmond, Batavia, N. Y., on November 10. There was a good attendance of greenkeepers and assistants and the following officers and directors were elected:

President, James Connaughton, Monroe Golf Club, Pittsford, N. Y.

Vice-President, Custer Stallman, Durand Eastman Park Golf Course, Rochester, N. Y.

Treasurer, Charles Earl, Oakridge C. C., Spencerport, N. Y.

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