

News From The Southland

By MERLE ZWEIFEL

AFRICAN Bermuda grass and its possibilities in the Southern states brought forth much comment from greenkeepers and Green chairmen at their meeting at the Tulsa Country Club, Tulsa, Okla., September 11. This meeting was held at the United States Golf Association Experimental Gardens, where Dr. Monteith gave an interesting lecture on grasses best suited for Oklahoma golf courses.

* * *

It was explained by Dr. Monteith that a small handful of this grass was imported from Africa by those interested in finding a better grass for putting greens of the South, and there are now over two dozen plots of this grass at experimental stations and turf gardens throughout the Southern states. This grass has all the earmarks of becoming the standard putting green grass and it would be especially fine for fairways where there is no fairway irrigation system present.

In fact officials of one prominent Florida country club have announced plans for resodding eighteen greens with the new grass. It closely resembles creeping bent in texture and forms a much better cushion than native Bermuda grass. However, Dr. Monteith pointed out, it would not be well to invest in the African grass until other experiments now being made with it are completed.

SOUTHERN CLUBS USING BENT GRASS

ONE of the serious mistakes being made by club officials of the South today is their carelessness in selecting the proper bent grass for putting greens. Great care should be exercised in purchasing the putting green grass as the club's growth usually depends upon the success of the greens especially in the southwestern states where bent grass is rapidly taking the place of Bermuda and clover.

Many Green chairmen are under the impression that when selecting bent grass seed it is only necessary to purchase any one of the several varieties of seed now on the market. This is erroneous. Seeds purchased under the name "creeping bent" does not necessarily mean that it is suitable to any climate or area as there are several kinds of bent that are generally labelled creeping bent.

When ordering bent seed it would be well to find the grass best suited to the area and then be sure and specify that particular kind of seed in the order.

Fertilizers also came in for much discussion at this meeting and greensmen made careful note of the effects which they produced on various grasses at the Tulsa turf garden. Stress was placed on the fact that many greens are damaged as well as helped when fertilizers are poorly mixed or unevenly distributed. Dr. Monteith gave an

interesting talk on how and when to apply these grass stimulants.

Among the out-of-state visitors at the meeting was Chester Mendenhall of the Wichita Country Club, Wichita, Kansas. Mr. Mendenhall favors the organization of a Tri-State Greenkeepers' Association for greenkeepers of Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

CHARLIE HANKINS TO CONTINUE GREENKEEPING

ALTHOUGH C. W. Hankins, veteran greenkeeper of the Oklahoma City Golf Club and Country Club of Oklahoma City, has apparently found the rainbow's end in his new oil well southeast of that city he will continue greenkeeping for the O. C. Club.

Several years ago, before the discovery of oil at the capital city, Hankins purchased a small tract of land

CHARLIE HANKINS

who took charge of the Oklahoma City Golf Club in 1909. He has had charge of the maintenance there for the past 23 years.



near the southeastern edge of town. Quite recently it has proven to be in the big gusher territory and one of the wells on this tract pays Charlie around one thousand dollars every twenty-four hours it produces. Indications are that it will produce for years.

Charlie Hankins came to Oklahoma City in 1909 and began work at the Oklahoma City Club, the only golf course in the state at that time. He has had charge of maintenance there for the past twenty-three years.

LAFFERTY INVENTS NEW DEVICE

ANEW and useful device has been invented by Ernest Lafferty, greenkeeper of the Claremore Country Club, for use in preparing sand greens for play. It consists of a rubbing board, a fine-toothed wire rake, and a fibre mat all securely fastened to a long handle.

This tool rakes, levels, and mats the greens all in one operation, saving much time and labor in preparing the greens for play. The wire rake serves to loosen up the sand and prevent packing which sometimes happens when the greens are heavily oiled. This contraption is light in weight and can be easily carried from one green to another.