

them singly or in various combinations. Roughly speaking, I use about the equivalent of a complete fertilizer through the winter, increasing the proportion of phosphorus in the early spring.

After April 1, I use sulphate of ammonia at frequent intervals, but very lightly; from one to two pounds to one thousand square feet. Also light applications of cotton seed meal. I mix cotton seed meal with my top dressings but not the sulphate of ammonia. I believe the less fertilizer you can put on the greens between April and November the better you are off. I always defer using sulphate of ammonia until I am convinced that more nitrogen is needed on a green. I consider every green an individual and treat it so.

Our greens average on a pH test from 6.4 to 6.8. They are all seaside bent. I like to keep them between those points. In the light of recent experiments, I am not at all sure though that the neutral point is not equally good or better.

I have written enough I think to be excused from writing much about the course in general. I consider the architecture of the course exceptional. We have been badly handicapped for lack of water during the past two years so the playing of the course has not been properly tested, but I believe that when our fairways are in good shape the course will present as interesting a test for players of all types as can be found on the coast.

## Minnesota Gossip

By L. J. FESER, *Greenkeeper,*

*Woodhill Country Club, Wayzata, Minnesota*

OUR monthly meeting was held August 8, at the Minneapolis Golf Club and the Golden Valley Golf Club. Harold Stodola was among the absent at this meeting, and this individual wonders why he doesn't send a reporter to these meetings. Hope that Harold will be able to tell you about our September meeting which will be held at the Keller and Hillcrest clubs of St. Paul.

\* \* \*

Minneapolis is shining as usual under the master hand of Vic Larson. Vic has beautiful bent greens, some Washington and most of a homebred strain called Minneapolis bent. Perfect putting surfaces on all of them. Larson never needs to get his course ready for a special event; it is in condition at all times.

\* \* \*

The big problem at Minneapolis is white clover in the fairways. Previous to the installation of a fairway

watering system, Minneapolis fairways were free of white clover. Even now there is no clover in the rough and unwatered areas, but the fairways are lush with the plant. Vic is constantly fighting it with fertilizer as his budget allows, and is making steady progress against the weed.

\* \* \*

### MINNEAPOLIS HAS PERFECT GREENS

ONE leaves Minneapolis club with the mental picture of perfect greens in a setting of beautiful young spruces, pines, birches, elms and maples. When the course was constructed, there were practically no trees on the land. Hundreds of trees planted soon after construction have been nursed along to twenty and thirty-foot spreading stock that makes the course one of the gems of this district.

\* \* \*

Leaving Larson's course with an ample interior supply of near beer and pretzels, we dashed a few miles overland to Golden Valley where Mike Sanko runs the works. Every course in this district has a habit of getting better each year, regardless of tough times, drought or what have you. Golden Valley in one of the outstanding examples of course improvement under the supervision of a capable greenkeeper.

\* \* \*

One of the stock jokes of a decade ago was the fitting of the name to the course. The grass was mostly brown which was called golden to make it sound better. Golden Valley can now be called the "Valley of Green," and Mike is the boy that made it that way. To any of our brothers who find their way up into this section of the country, let me advise you to see this peach of a golf course, and play a few shots over the rolling hills.

### WASHINGTON BENT AT GOLDEN VALLEY

A VERY peculiar phenomenon is a puzzle to Mike as well as to the rest of the local boys. Mike has a lot of Washington bent. At early stages this grass was very coarse, but most of it is getting finer every year. Under practically identical conditions, one of the greens remains somewhat coarse. This rascal doesn't respond to the same treatment that has made excellent turf on the other greens.

\* \* \*

Sanko needs a crew of Pittsburgh hill climbers to mow around his traps. Most of them are deep enough to use a flashlight to locate the balls, but the banks are kept very heavily turfed, and are mowed by hand mowers. Mike was born in Pittsburgh, so he figures that the hills are O. K. Any of the Pittsburgh boys that want to argue this point will please look me up at Chicago. Challenges must be made in writing on or before January 1, 1933, and weapons must be limited from aces to deuces, inclusive.