

who feel that their methods are trade secrets. One of the best ways of self education is to talk over our successes and failures with the man who is in the same line of work. The principle upon which meetings of this kind is based is the mutual exchange of information and ideas. If we were unwilling to do that a meeting would be of little value. We can possibly to a lesser extent, profit by a mutual exchange of ideas when the numbers involved are just two perplexed greenkeepers.

I believe that another means of self education for the greenkeeper is playing golf—by all means playing his own course and it would also be desirable to play other courses. I know the danger that lies in this type of instruction but I have faith in the greenkeepers that they will not specialize in it to the extent of causing their work to be neglected, as is frequently the case with some of the club members. In the first place the greenkeeper who plays golf is in a much better position to judge of the sort of playing conditions he is providing than if he has merely a theoretical basis for his judgment as to what are good playing conditions. If he plays his course he will be in much better position to judge whether or not there is ground for the complaint of a member or official or whether the complainer was merely off his game on his last round.

Playing other courses will enable him to make comparisons with his own. Sometimes we are quite satisfied with ourselves until we begin to measure up to what someone else has accomplished and then we are forced to revise our ideas. But comparisons are not always odious; we may find that after all we have been doing quite as well as we thought, and to find this out should be helpful for it should stimulate us to greater efforts to improve upon our past successes.

I would not want to take all the joy out of a game of golf for the greenkeeper or ruin his score by insisting that he should be studying the course as he plays. I think I have heard somewhere that when one plays golf his mind should be on his game. However, I would suggest that there are times when the greenkeeper should play with the avowed purpose of studying the course in relation to his play. I am quite sure that if he does this he will discover possible changes which if made would improve the course and increase the pleasure of the members in playing it.

There may be some other ways of self education for the greenkeeper which I have not mentioned, but I believe I have suggested enough so that any greenkeeper who faithfully tries out all of them will not want for means of occupying his leisure hours for some time to come. I fully realize that many greenkeepers are probably making use of most of these methods at present. I do not want to add anything to the gloom which already engulfs us, but I will venture the guess that greenkeepers are going to be asked to make just as many bricks with less straw in the future as they have in the past when there was more straw with which to work.

The greenkeeper is going to have to be more efficient in the future than in the past. Granted that he has been doing his best in the past he is going to have to do better in the future. To do that he must know more about his job. He must make better utilization of the facilities furnished. He must be more alert to keep the club officials better informed as to the problems, without seeming to complain. Only to the extent to which he avails himself of these various means of education will he be able to meet the new demands which will be made upon him.

Greenkeepers Meet at Kingston

By PROFESSOR T. E. ODLAND

THE 4th Annual Greenkeepers field day was held at the Rhode Island State College and experiment station at Kingston, R. I., on May 22. The day was ideal and about 80 greenkeepers and other turf enthusiasts were present.

After registration the greenkeepers visited the turf experiments at the Experiment station under the guidance of T. E. Odland and H. F. A. North. The season has been favorable and the grass plats were in good condition. Various fertilizer tests, variety tests, bent grass strains from different clubs, bent grass for seed production and many other experiments and tests are under way.

From the grass plats the way led to the College dining hall where 81 were served lunch. After luncheon the visitors were extended greetings from the college by President Raymond G. Bressler. Director Gilbert of the Experiment station acted as chairman of the meeting and introduced a number of the greenkeepers and others present. The chief

address of the day was made by Dr. John Monteith, Jr. of the Green Section, U. S. Golf Association. His topic was "Turf diseases and their control."

Following the dinner and talks, the annual business meeting of the Rhode Island Greenkeepers' Club was held. The following officers were elected: President, Chas. B. Mulaney, Meshanticut Golf Club; Vice President, Everett Pyle, Providence Municipal Links; Treasurer, Martin Greene, Wannoisett Country Club; Secretary, Woodworth Bradley, Providence, R. I.

A number of firms were represented with various lines of equipment. Demonstrations of equipment occupied the time from 3 p. m. to well towards 6 o'clock. The exhibits included lawn and putting green mowers, sprinklers and sprinkler equipment, water pumps, seeds, fertilizers, and miscellaneous golf equipment.

At no other time during the year is there a more genuinely interested and enthusiastic gathering at the college than when the greenkeepers have their field day.

Golf Course News

*A column of information brief and accurate.
Items are welcome and will be published.*

CANADIAN GOSSIP

By J. H. EVANS

SOME concern is being shown by greenkeepers and course superintendents of golf clubs of Ontario over the policy of retrenchment generally decided on for 1933. With few exceptions clubs have reduced to a considerable extent the amount set aside annually for course maintenance. The policy means lower wages for the laborer, a smaller amount for equipment and material and as a consequence courses in poorer condition as the year proceeds.

"During the past few years a considerable sum has been spent by the older clubs and some of the newer clubs. Many of the clubs will be able to retrench for a year without suffering any loss, but if the retrenchment extends for more than a season, they will be faced with some serious problems," said W. J. Sansom, president of the Greenkeepers' association, who pointed out that the greenkeeper's attitude was one of interest in his work.

The majority of greenkeepers realize, according to Mr. Sansom, that economies for a season or so, must be followed by extensive expenditures to improve conditions on run-down fairways and poorly-kept greens. Their

view is not entirely one of dollars and cents and personnel, he said.

The outdoor meetings of the greenkeepers' association will commence in June. Arrangements for these meetings were made during May, while Mr. Sansom and others visited Howard Lloyd, formerly an officer of their association who was compelled through ill health to resign his position at the Rosedale Golf club and take a place in the Niagara peninsula at Beamsville. The meetings will be of the usual character—a discussion on different subjects with some technical advice thrown in by experts from agricultural colleges.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH

By MERLE ZWEIFEL

FOR the first time in nearly five years greensmen of the southwest have been able to effect a long, deep sigh of genuine relief and devote their attention to other than laying water lines from a nearby creek or pond. For the drouth apparently is over.

Rainfall for Oklahoma and Texas has been more nearly normal during the past six weeks than at any time since 1928 although it still falls short of the pre-drouth average. The dry spell kept greenkeepers constantly on their toes trying to pull the greens and fairways through. A few clubs had fairway watering systems installed but those who were less fortunate suffered the loss of Bermuda grass turf that will be costly to replace.

Several golf clubs will take advantage of the "wet" season and seed bare spots in the fairways with Bermuda.

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A NEW THREAT?

A BRAND new plant seems to have made an impressive debut in the Oklahoma and Arkansas district quite recently and has caused much comment among turf experts. Botanists have identified the plant as Mexican clover, of a creeping variety. Although it originated in the dry, arid sections of southwest Texas, it thrives unusually well in the Mississippi valley states.

Observers have noted that a number of lawns in the northern section of Oklahoma have become infested with the weed and it will choke or smother out grasses of all kinds if allowed to spread including the hardy Bermuda. The main stem puts out runners that take root in the soil with amazing rapidity and seems little effected by close mowing.

NEW ENGLAND NOTES

By GUY C. WEST

THE Greenkeepers' Club of New England held its regular monthly meeting on May 8 at the Kernwood Country Club, Salem, Mass. In the morning, Wendell Miller, well-known irrigation expert, demonstrated and