

Greenkeepers' Wives Organize

By MARIE J. FOX



OFFICERS OF THE "WIVES OF NATIONAL GREENKEEPERS" ASSOCIATION
Left to right: Mrs. Herbert E. Shave, Oakland Hills Country Club, Birmingham, Mich., 1st V. P.; Mrs. J. Varn Hagen, Plum Hollow Golf Club, Redford, Mich., Pres; Mrs. W. Smith, Red Run Golf Club, Royal Oak, Mich., Sec'y

AT THE recent convention of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America held in Detroit a new venture which promises to be successful was proposed by several of the wives of greenkeepers. The idea of having a National Association of Greenkeepers' Wives thus came to light and unbounded enthusiasm was shown over it at the convention by those who were in Detroit. The name of the new organization is Wives of National Greenkeepers. The group was organized and officers were elected to serve for the coming year: Mrs. J. Varn Hagen, Plum Hollow Golf Club, Redford, Mich., president; Mrs. John Gray, Sandwich, Ontario, Canada, treasurer; Mrs. W. Smith, Red Run Golf Club, Royal Oak, Mich., secretary; Mrs. H. Shave, Oakland Hills Country Club, Birmingham, Mich., first vice president; and Mrs. C. Bain, Oakwood Country Club, Cleveland Heights, O., second vice president.

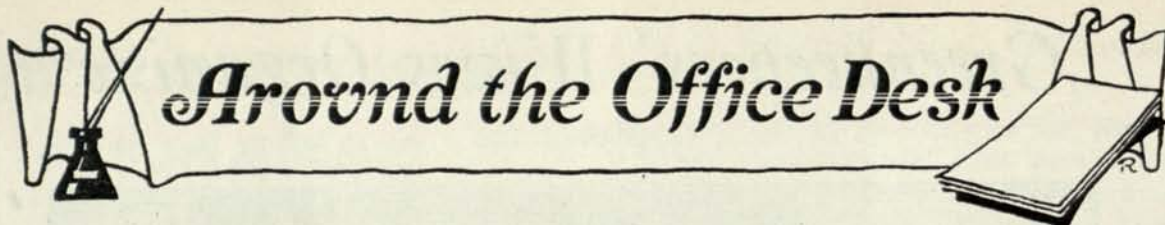
Eighteen members paid the initial fee of \$1 which will remain as such until by-laws are drawn up and a definite fee settled upon. These dues cover running expenses such as stationery, mailing charges and the like. It was decided that only wives whose husbands are members of the national association are eligible to join. Members who joined in Detroit are: Mrs. Varn Hagen, Redford, Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. Gray, Sandwich, Ont., Can.; Mrs.

Smith, Royal Oak, Mich.; Mrs. Johnson, Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. Bolitho, Akron, Ohio; Mrs. Shave, Birmingham, Mich.; Mrs. Welsh, Flint, Mich.; Mrs. Martin, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Mrs. Godwin, Redford, Mich.; Mrs. Marley, Wilkesbarre, Pa.; Mrs. Spencer, Akron, O.; Mrs. Bain, Cleveland Heights, O.; Mrs. Mayne, Alberta, Canada; Mrs. Creed, Pontiac, Mich.; Mrs. Wilson, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Mrs. Farmer, Winnetka, Ill.; Mrs. Kay, Rochester, Mich.; Mrs. Gray, Leamington, Ont., Canada.

The present plans are to hold an annual convention which will coincide with the greenkeepers' meeting. It is felt that this yearly assembly will tend to further greater interest on the part of the women in their husbands' profession as well as to establish friendly contact between the women themselves.

If there are several golf clubs in your locality get the wives of greenkeepers interested in joining this very promising young organization.

Send your \$1 fee to Mrs. John Gray, 116 Prince Road, Sandwich, Ont., Canada, treasurer, and for any further information address Mrs. J. Varn Hagen, Plum Hollow Golf Club, Lock Box 67, Redford, Detroit, Mich., president or Mrs. W. Smith, Red Run Golf Club, Royal Oak, Mich., secretary.



Around the Office Desk

A Letter from the Secretary

BROTHER GREENKEEPERS:—

The recent convention at Detroit is still fresh in our memories. You will probably remember most of the things that were said or done there and there are things that we will forget. The talks, papers, conversations and other interesting subjects have made a lasting impression on our minds. Much good will be derived from them.

The show was a complete success and the new models of equipment which were exhibited were worth looking over.

While all of these are still fond remembrances let us not forget our association and the good it is doing and the good it will continue to do in the future.

Let us not "hide our light under a bushel" as it is often said. Try to find a greenkeeper who is not a mem-

ber of the Association and invite and persuade him to affiliate himself with us. The more members we have the stronger we will be, and better fitted for our work and profession. Explain to him the benefits and good he will derive from our association, the worthy articles which appear in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, the knowledge obtained by meeting greenkeepers from every state in the Union and Canada. All these points are just a few of the reasons why we should join.

Let's all get together, put our shoulder to the wheel and give a mighty push, and then watch us go over the top to success, and a more intimate knowledge of our work, thereby binding ourselves together with the bonds of brotherly love and the elevation of the art of greenkeeping.

Fraternally yours,

John Quail, Secretary.

New Officers For 1928 *National Ass'n of Greenkeepers of America*

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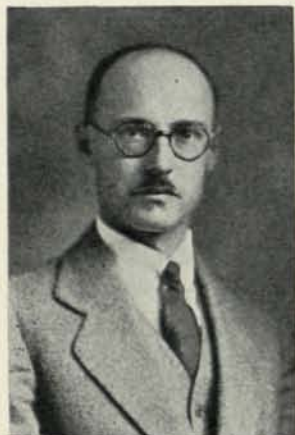
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Canadian Courses and Maintenance Problems

A first-hand glimpse of conditions north of the International boundary where the playing season is short and the winters severe. Bent grasses grow luxuriantly. Snow mold and its treatment

By C. A. TREGILLUS

Read before the annual convention of greenkeepers at Detroit, Friday, February 24.



C. A. Tregillus of Toronto, an authority on Canadian maintenance problems

DURING the past few years it has been the writer's privilege to keep in touch with Canadian conditions surrounding the Royal and Ancient Game. The Dominion follows the sport with great interest and a large proportion of the population actively play. There is still a great number who were golfers before coming to the country but who are unable to play now owing to lack of facilities; never-the-less they still retain a love for the game.

Golf has been played in Canada for a good many years; the records show that prominent clubs originated as far back as the late sixties and early seventies. One club has been playing upon the same ground continuously since about 1885. This constitutes the record for Canada, and curiously enough, the membership of this club is almost all American and the executive wholly so.

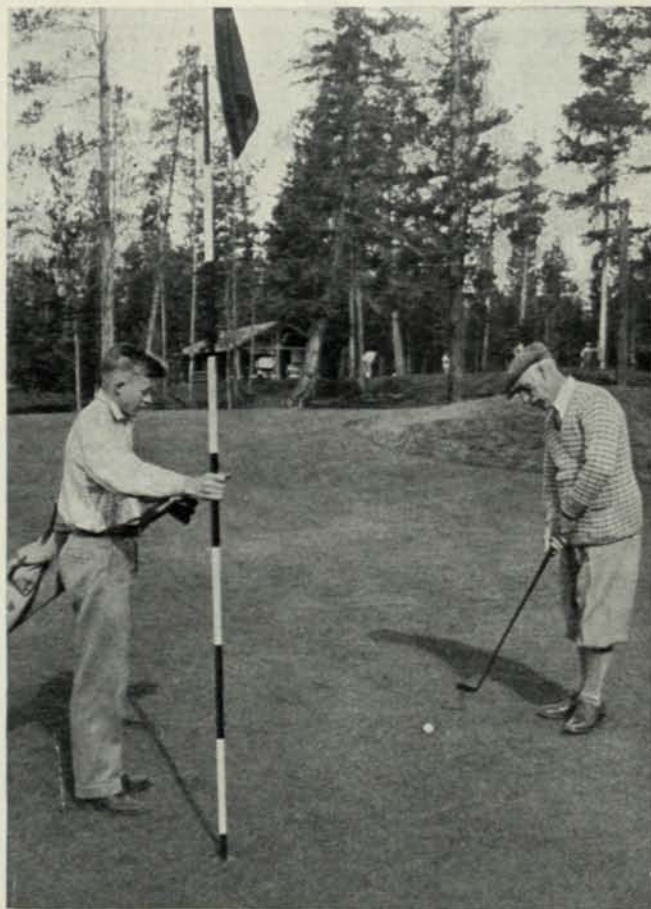
From these early beginnings there has been a steady growth which is still continuing at a healthy rate. Saturation point, so called, is still a long way off, though it is quite likely that the heavily capitalized private clubs will show a slower rate of increase than heretofore. It would appear that there are enough of these to supply the requirements for the present and near future, but there is a demand for courses to accommodate the golfer of more moderate means. Whether these will take the form of pay-as-you-play or cheaply run semi-private organizations it is hard to say, but the demand for such is there and will have to be met.

Courses for Middle Class Golfers

IT IS a problem that will require considerable thought and working out, for the necessity of this kind of club arises around the large centers of population, in districts where the price of land is high because it lies within a radius of easy access. Adjacency is a factor that must not be overlooked because this class of golfer has usually little time for his recreation, or the means of motor car transportation. In many places this question has been solved by inexpensive construction on land held for real estate development; it is quite possible to

employ land that would otherwise lie idle and turn it to good purpose, where it will not only bring in a revenue for the owners, but is also instrumental in providing golf for large numbers of salary and wage earners who would otherwise be prohibited from the game.

On the whole, the golf courses in Canada do not comprise expensive layouts. There are, it is true, some of the finest courses that can be found anywhere and which have been built with quite a lot of money, but these are few and found only around the largest cities, and the sums spent upon them would doubtless not be considered large when compared with the cost of some of the courses in the United States. For the most part the course architecture and construction follows along conservative lines: efforts are directed towards blending the natural features into a layout rather than creating a course



On the Eighteenth Green, Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper, Alberta.

topography which is at variance with the surrounding terrain.

Canadian Courses Have Natural Features

THE use of striking physical features, artificially produced, involving the removal of large quantities of earth, is little known in Canada and is not favored. True, some large operations are undertaken in the matter of clearing through timber and rock, and in the management of swamp and muskeg, but this work is for the purpose of providing a place to grow grass and not to create architectural adornment. It might be said that almost exclusively, the "natural" school of architecture is followed; that means that the original topography is disturbed as little as possible and where such is necessary, the actual work is disguised as much as lies within the art and skill of the designer and constructor to look as if the work was done by nature herself.

It is needless to say that working along these lines leaves a memorial pleasing to the eye of the golfers and gratifying for the greenkeeper. Freakish mounds and greens of extraordinary contour are hard to keep up and really give little satisfaction in proportion to their cost, and in Canadian opinion, they rarely conform with what might be called ideal golfing holes.

Four Types of Canadian Courses

CANADIAN courses may be divided into three or four groups as regards their appointments and playing arrangements: (1) large private courses; (2) small private courses; (3) accommodation courses, and (4) straight commercial courses. The large courses are on a par with those south of the international line; they are in match condition at all times and their layouts call for the best the golfer can do to hold a low score. The small courses are found around nearly every town or group of towns, in fact, it might be safe to say, that every dweller in the older portion of English-speaking Canada is within easy access of a golf course. Some of these are primitive it is true, but never-the-less, are bona fide courses; their fees are cheap so that every one with a little leisure to follow the game can do so without it being a burden. These small courses are of interest in so far that they exhibit in many cases, how economically they can be run and what sort of golf can be provided on a very small expenditure.

Where funds do not run to water systems, of course the putting greens cannot be expected to be of very high standard, but in other respects they compare very well. One common criticism is that many are too short. This is due to two reasons: first, the attempt is too often made to put them on a scanty area of ground, and secondly, the original layout is invariably made by a local committee, whose members have not done this before and have a natural inclination to misjudge the distance of holes. Since most of them are nine-hole size, we often find that

the total grounds are not above forty five or fifty acres. By the time the clubhouse, driveway and parking ground, are taken out, there is not sufficient left for the needs of the course proper.

The experiences of these courses shows very clearly that when a club has to start in a modest way, on a small piece of land, it is unwise to attempt the expensive construction of the whole set of holes, but only to go ahead with those that will later blend in with a more elaborate layout. No sounder advice can be given a group of individuals considering the founding of a club in a small way, than to make sure of their layout, first, to see that it will grow with the club, and not have to be scrapped as the course is developed. It has most likely come within the observation of many greenkeepers and course superintendents who are called in for consultation, that the club that starts off without any proper plan of expansion is put to greater expense and inconvenience during the enlarging of the course, than the club that at slightly higher initial cost made provision for subsequent development.

Tourist Golfers Help Course Improvement

ALL courses are in a perpetual state of change since every year an effort is made to do some improving, and this applies to every course in Canada whether great or small. In these days of extended motor travel, the tourist golfer, will carry along a bag of clubs in order to play when opportunity affords. The small town clubs are very hospitable in this direction for two reasons: first, they wish to make the visitor feel at home since, if he likes the place he may stay longer than at first intended, and secondly, a matter not to be forgotten, the green fees contributed to the club, are a very real asset.

The added revenue is, almost without exception, spent on the course, so it may be said that the touring and holidaying golfer is doing as much as any other factor towards the advancement of this class of golf course. If the present rate of improvement continues, it will not be many years before they will be on a par with the city courses; indeed many compare quite favorably as it is.

No resort or summer hotel is complete nowadays without a golf course; they are to be found in the most out-of-the-way places in the north country. These are solely for the enticement or accommodation of guests and run the whole gamut of attractiveness, from a mere apology, to the best ranking courses in the country. The amount of money spent on these is in proportion to the style of golf demanded by the clientele, and for that reason large hotels are spending extraordinary amounts of money to make courses that will equal those that the guests will find anywhere in their travels. The straight commercial courses as yet are not very general in Canada, though it is quite possible that the city of Winni-

peg with six, holds the records of any North American city of its size.

Remarks About Canadian Turf

SO much for brief comment on the courses in Canada. Now let us turn to a few remarks about the turf that is produced in that country and some interesting points in connection with its maintenance. The climate, with the exception of one severe drawback, which is common on this side of the line also, namely insufficient moisture, appears to be an ideal one for turf production. From the golfer point of view, it might, with the exception of the Pacific coast, have another drawback, that of too short a season. The latter is not without its advantage, as a long steady winter such as they have in the northern belt, is not hard on the grass and it shuts up the course so effectively that there is not the trouble from winter play as occurs in some warmer sections.

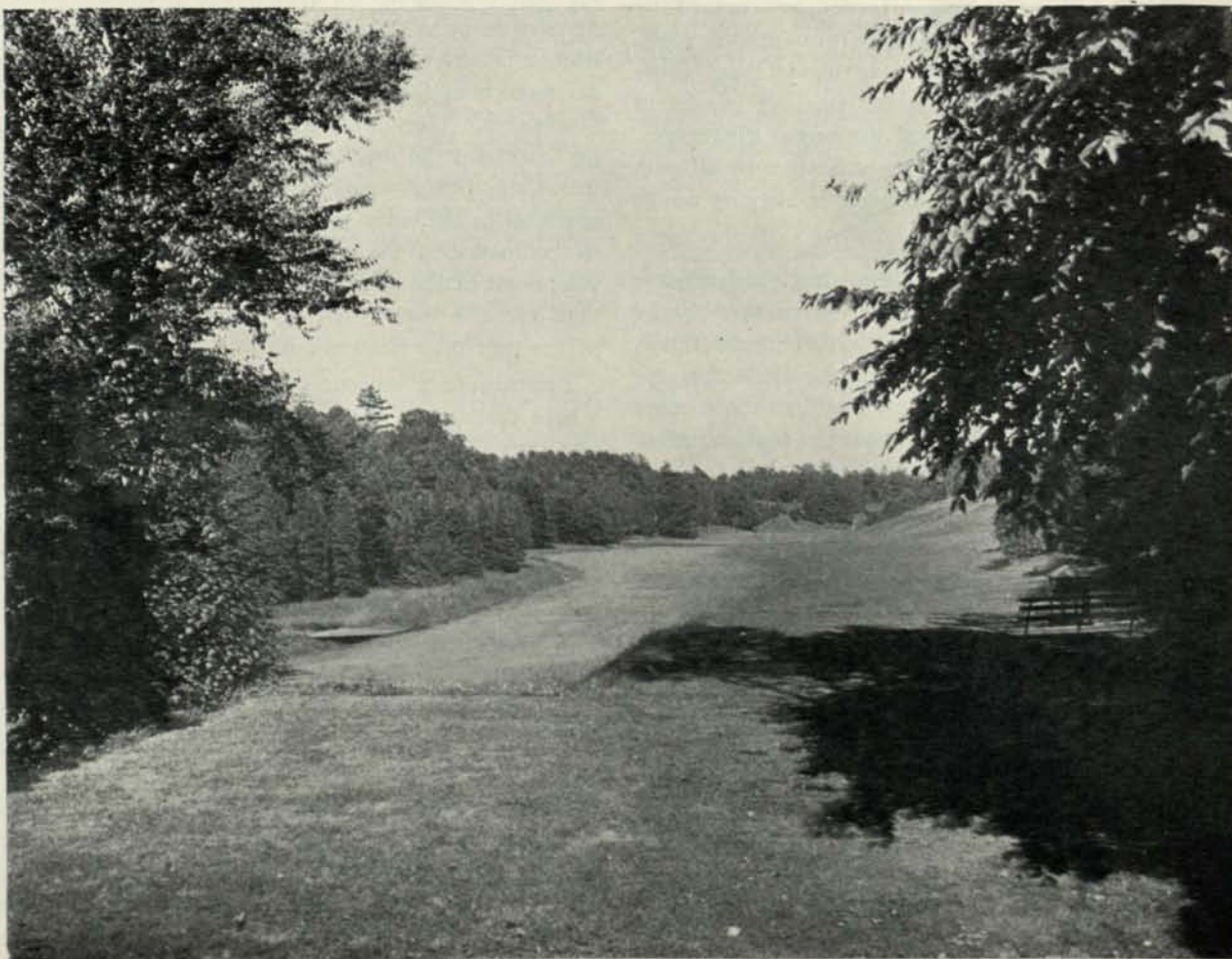
Turf grasses are naturally lovers of temperate and cool climate, and it is a fact not generally realized, that the farther north one travels, the wild grasses become finer in texture. Take for instance the Bent grasses. There is a definite southern limit to the zone in which these grasses make suitable summer turf. Along the lower limit we find that the creeping bent does toler-

ably well, some strains are able to stand the heat and disease better than others. In somewhat cooler parts as those moderated by ocean breezes, the Rhode Island Bent thrives. As one travels up the Atlantic coastal states it will be noticed how this grass gradually becomes the prevailing species on the roadside and in waste places. Farther North, Velvet bent makes its appearance as a wild grass and in and around the Gulf of St. Lawrence, we find Velvet and Rhode Island on an almost equal footing.

Velvet Bent Fairways in Nova Scotia

IN THE extreme easterly section of the province of Nova Scotia, the writer found a course with some fairways almost exclusively velvet bent. One portion of the course had two years previously been a vegetable garden, but when allowed to grow into rough, had reverted to a close mat of this desirable grass. Going still farther north we come across Northern Bent which is finer yet, but as far as is known, golf has not yet penetrated to the latitudes where this grass prevails.

Inland we find that turf grasses do well in nearly all regions. The one necessary and expensive thing is water; given that, the country can produce greens and fairways the equal of any on the continent. Creeping bent is to be found growing in a wild state on almost



The seventh hole, Toronto Golf Club, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

every golf course, and many of these varieties when developed, have done splendidly. Strains of creeping bent isolated at Arlington, are doing well as far north as there are recognized courses. And not alone in bents are there good putting greens, but some of the finest greens that the writer has seen in Canada, were composed chiefly of fescue grass. Though it appears that this grass is not so successful south of the line, still there are in the Dominion some places where it has done extraordinarily well. It is acknowledged by greenkeepers who have fescue and fescue-redtop greens that they are more trouble to maintain than creeping bent, but they consider them worth the extra effort, if they are the kind of greens that members prefer, and there are golfers that do like putting on a green with a "feel" to it.

Winter Kill Not a Menace in Canada

MANY people think that the extreme cold, to which they suspect Canada is subjected, makes it difficult to winter the greens in good condition. In the first place the settled portions of Canada do not suffer from a very severe climate, and secondly, cold weather does not hurt northern golf grasses. The injuries which result in winter kill in its many forms, are caused by several agencies, but rarely, if at all, from extreme frost. Variable winter weather is more to blame than below zero temperature, also methods in handling greens in the fall, and in the construction of the greens themselves. These are factors that are pretty well known by all who have to do with the upkeep of courses in regions where winters are cold.

No recognized procedure has been developed regarding the protection of greens during the winter. Some go to the expense of covering with various materials, while others do not. There are some locations that appear to be benefited by such practice and in those cases it repays the cost. The coverings that are most effective are those that do not lie too close to the ground and permit a circulation of air over the turf, rather than the material that lies flat and heavy on the grass.

Boughs and branches serve the purpose well because they hold the snow from blowing away or melting under the influence of mid-winter warm spells. These have been valuable in positions where the sun might beat down with considerable force, as on greens in corners with a southern aspect and protected from cold winds. Normally such locations would fill with snow to a depth sufficient to afford all the protection required, but there are times and districts where the snow is not enough for this. Protection has also been secured by covering greens exposed to high winds and would naturally be blown clean. The drying effect of winter winds and the sun's rays is very considerable as no doubt those with hill-top and severely elevated greens have found.

Covering Greens Not General Practice

COVERING greens however, is not a general practice; they come through very well in their natural condition, providing they are properly built and properly cared for. With adequate surface drainage and a fairly healthy mat of grass, there is not much fear of worse effect than if they were not given this protection. The placing of brush over the green tends to encourage the grass to grow a little sooner in the spring than it would ordinarily, but in the opinion of some this brings an additional hazard in exposing the green succulent growth to late frosts.

The accumulation of snow in deep banks at times offers trouble as these drifts are slow in disappearing. In such cases it is found advantageous to remove the snow by hand. It also happens that occasionally, water lies on greens because it is penned back by frozen snow or faulty contour. The likelihood of trouble resulting is relieved by making trenches to allow the water to run away, and breaking up ice sheets so that the air can circulate and prevent the temperature of the ground from becoming too high.

Snow Mold and How to Treat It

SNOW mold occurs in many sections and on courses where it makes its appearance it causes much disfigurement of the grass if allowed to run unchecked. The disease is noticed by the appearance of cobwebby patches scattered over the grass in the early spring, as the snow disappears. The combination of cool, near freezing temperature and the moisture from the melting snow seem to be the factors conducive to its growth. The webs are seen in the early morning only as they collapse under influence of the rising temperature. The later development of the disease, where the affected grass all but dies out, is a source of much annoyance as the marring of the turf may last until well on towards mid-summer.

Precautionary measures involve the removal of snow where practicable so that the green can dry out quickly, and sweeping the greens of the webs early in the morning before the sun has dried them up. Excellent control has been afforded by treating greens, that are likely to be infected, with fungicides, late in the fall so that the chemical will be present on the turf when the disease awakens in the spring. Any of the recognized Brown Patch remedies will do. This method appears to be logical since it is very possible for the mold to grow even under a snow bank. Spraying or dusting as soon as the disease is active is also effective, but may mean repetition if the snow is still around.

Summer fungus diseases are not very general. Some greens do suffer from the heat when the days become warm and humid and there is the odd touch of brown spotting, but for the most part the Dominion is pretty free from serious trouble of this sort. Prompt treatment of affected greens will usually bring them around in a week or ten days.

Golf Grasses

Chapter III—The Bent Family

By LYMAN CARRIER

Editor's Note:—Mr. Carrier was for many years connected with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, as agronomist in pasture and forage crop investigations. His work with the U. S. G. A. Green Section established the value of vegetative creeping bent for putting greens.

MUCH has been written during the past fifteen years about bent grasses for golf courses. Practically everything has been said that can be said. Still a great deal of confusion exists in the minds of greenkeepers as to the relative merits of these different grasses. Until this confusion is cleared up the subject cannot be over-discussed. The bent grasses are by far the most important group of plants known today for the production of fine turf, not only for golf courses but also for lawns, baseball, foot ball, polo fields and tennis courts.

The subject is extremely complicated. Botanists, in spite of a large amount of careful research, are not at all in agreement as to the proper identification and classification of the various species which are found in this group. It is small wonder then that the layman is confused. While the term "bent grass" has been applied in Europe to many different plants, we in America have restricted its use to the grasses classified by botanists as the genus *Agrostis*.

The classification which follows is based on the most common usage rather than on any particular botanical authority. The common names are more definite in meaning than the scientific which are given in parenthesis. In other words the common names are more scientific than the scientific names. This is due to the penchant of botanists always to give the credit for a scientific name of a plant to the one who first described it. In the case of the *Agrostis* species there is much doubt as to what grass the earliest botanists were describing.

There are four species of bent which are of prime importance to greenkeepers and these are the only ones which will be discussed here. They are redtop (*Agrostis alba*), Rhode Island bent (*Agrostis vulgaris*), Creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), and velvet bent (*Agrostis canina*). Some of the more common of the other names which have been used for these species will be mentioned in the discussion of each of the four species.

Redtop

This is the well-known agricultural grass. It grows rapidly from seed and makes a beautiful greensward of seedling plants. As it grows older the plants become coarse and many die out leaving a sparse, unsightly turf. On account of its being plentiful and cheap the seed is often used in lawn mixtures and is combined with bluegrass for fairway seedings. Redtop alone seldom lasts

longer than two years and in some large regions it does not survive that long.

In the early days of golf course construction it was an all too common practice to seed putting greens heavily with redtop and turn the course over to the club while the grass was still in the seedling stage looking like a "joy forever." When the change came in due time the greenkeeper was often blamed for the failure of the turf when it was not his fault at all. While redtop is still used a great deal in fairway seedings it will be more satisfactory in many cases as pointed out in a previous article to use some of the more expensive bent seed in its place.

Redtop is also used in the South for winter putting greens being seeded each fall on Bermuda turf. Its good and rapid germination makes it especially suitable for that purpose although some find it susceptible to brown-patch and prefer bluegrass or rye grass.

Rhode Island Bent

The name given this grass has no special significance. There never was very much seed of it harvested in New England and for many years none at all. During the War when other sources of supply were cut off a small industry started up in Rhode Island but the amount harvested is insignificant in comparison to supplies from other regions. Seed of Rhode Island bent makes up the bulk of the bent seed which is imported into this country from Europe and sold in the trade as South German Mixed Bent. It is also identical with the Colonial Bent which comes from New Zealand. There are more than two hundred tons of *Agrostis vulgaris* seed imported into this country each year which testifies to its popularity.

Rhode Island bent is medium fine in texture and makes turf which will stand a lot of trampling. It spreads slowly by means of short underground rootstalks from the crown. A single plant growing naturally will make in a few years a tuft of six inches or more in diameter. When kept closely cut as on a putting green it appears to spread faster but as a rule it cannot be considered a creeping grass. Certain strains have been found which take root at the joints of the stems but there is no certainty that these are pure *Agrostis vulgaris*. Some



Lyman Carrier

authorities consider them cross-bred strains between *Agrostis vulgaris* and some creeping form of bent.

The chief fault to be found with Rhode Island bent is its inability to keep out or to drive out weeds. A pure stand of Rhode Island bent is about as satisfactory as a putting turf as any grass known but it takes constant care and weeding to maintain a pure stand. That is the main reason why the creeping bents have been used so extensively in the past few years.

Creeping Bent

A creeping plant is one which spreads by rooting stems or stolons above ground. So in the case of the bent grasses the term "creeping" should not be applied to any sorts which do not have this ability to take root at the joints of the stems.

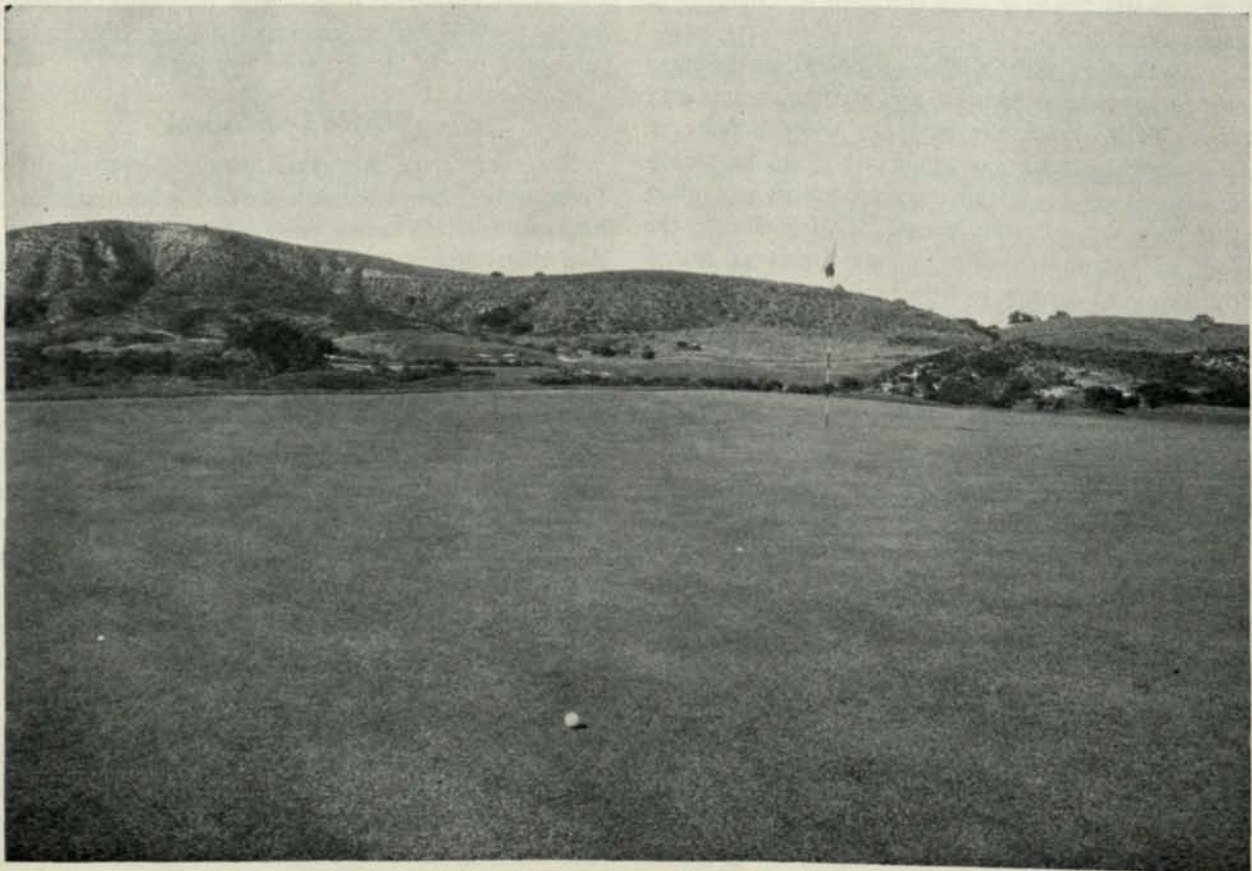
There are hundreds of different strains of creeping bent. It is one of the most variable species of grasses that has ever been studied. Just as all horses are classified as one species but having a wide variation between a Belgian Draft and a Shetland Pony, so in creeping bents there is a vast difference between strains as to their turf producing qualities. Another feature which has not been properly understood is that these strains behave differently when grown under different conditions. A first class turf producer in one locality may not be satisfactory in another.

The value of creeping bent was not understood until the United States Department of Agriculture in 1916 began selecting and developing pure strains of this species. Of the many strains selected and tested at the Arlington Turf Garden, two stand out as distinctly superior to all the others. These two strains were named the Washington and the Metropolitan. They are similar in habit of growth and appearances. Grown on some soils it is almost impossible to distinguish one from the other. Under other conditions they are distinctly different. Uncertainty exists today as to which is which.

Characteristics of the Washington Strain

The Washington is the more vigorous of the two. It will thrive under more adverse conditions. It makes a thicker turf which will stand more rough usage. When grown on very rich soils or kept highly fertilized the Washington has a tendency to coarseness. The remedy for this is simple—it should be given a starvation diet. Top dressings should be of sandy loam without compost or fertilizer until the grass shows by its appearance it is suffering from lack of food. When treated in this manner the Washington will be found to be fine enough in texture to suit the most critical golfer.

The Washington strain has proved to be the only one which is planted vegetatively that will thrive under



The famous 12th at El Caballero, Los Angeles (Reseda) Calif. This green is Cocos bent planted from seed. Note how the ball stands up.

the adverse conditions south of the Ohio River and in the dry country west of the Mississippi. It requires less water than any other creeping bent so far tried.

Characteristics of the Metropolitan

The Metropolitan does not become coarse in texture under any conditions. For that reason it is recommended for the rich black soils of the North Central States. Greenkeepers in the North who can not resist the temptation to be constantly fertilizing and watering their greens have better results from the Metropolitan than they do from the Washington. It is slightly lighter in color than the Washington.

History of Washington and Metropolitan Strains

The Washington strain was selected by the late Dr. C. V. Piper from a small patch of turf on one of the greens at the Washington Country Club near Washington, D. C. These greens were not watered artificially at the time and Dr. Piper was impressed by the fact that this particular patch of turf remained healthy and green during hot, dry weather while the rest of the turf became brown and seared.

The Metropolitan was developed from a small piece of turf which George Stump of New York sent to me for identification. It came from a putting green on one of the older courses in the Metropolitan District. As it differed from the other strains we had at Arlington at the time I put it in the green house and multiplied the stolons as fast as possible. The piece of turf which was the start of this strain was not over an inch in diameter.

An idea of the relative physical vigor of these two strains may be learned from an incident at my nursery in 1925. We had two rows of Metropolitan growing alongside some Washington in a field which was not piped for artificial watering. A hot dry week in early June killed out the Metropolitan completely while the Washington was not injured in the least.

Seaside Bent Seed

In 1924, I discovered, in the County of Coos in Oregon, quite large areas of creeping bent which were producing seed. This seed was harvested and put on the market under the name of Cocoos. It proved to be a pure strain which came true to type no matter where used and so the term "Cocoos" was registered with the U. S. Patent Office and the Commissioner of Patents of Canada. No other seed can be legally sold under that trade-mark. Since this seed has become popular for putting greens a number of seed harvesting operations have sprung up in various parts of the country. Seed analysts are unable to identify these different strains of creeping bent seed and experience considerable difficulty in distinguishing them from ordinary redtop seed. They report them all as *Agrostis maritima*, or "seaside bent." In view of this situation each producer should be willing to give his product a distinctive name. Pur-

chasers have the right and should for their own protection insist on knowing the source of these strains of seed. Buying creeping bent seed regardless of source is like buying dogs regardless of breed. The chances are heavily against your getting what you want. Any producer of creeping bent seed should be willing on request to furnish a list of the users of his seed so the purchaser can investigate and see if the turf is what he desires.

This is a matter of more importance than it may seem on first thought. Those who know their grasses are convinced that the use of these creeping bent seeds may be destined in the near future to displace vegetative planting with stolons, and there is a strong movement under way among certain seedsmen to discourage the use of definite trade names and have these seeds all sold under the term "seaside bent." The purpose of this propaganda is obvious. The supply of these seeds is limited at the present time and, if they are all thrown onto the market under the same general name, the inferior strains could be sold on the reputation made by the better sorts.

It is futile to try to distinguish botanically between the strains of creeping bent which are planted vegetatively and these so-called "seaside strains." I have tried vainly for years to have some botanist give me a valid reason for considering them as belonging to different species. The scientific name "*maritima*" was first used for a variety of creeping bent, that is, *Agrostis stolonifera*. It would simplify matters if seed analysts would go back to this classification or drop the misnomer "seaside" altogether.

Velvet Bent

This is the finest in texture of all the bent grasses and under conditions favorable to its growth makes excellent turf. Many of the greens in New England are nearly solid velvet bent. It has been mistaken for red fescue many times. It is softer than red fescue and the blades on close examination are flat while the fescue blades are nearly round or bristle-like.

There is no pure seed of velvet bent on the market. The South German Mixed Bent usually carries some velvet bent seed, the amount varying from a mere trace to as high in some cases as fifty per cent.

Many selections have been made and serious attempts to plant it vegetatively. But it does not stand shipping well and its slow growth makes it unsatisfactory. Most strains of velvet bent are susceptible to the brown patch disease of turf and it is scarcely worth while to try to grow it where this disease is troublesome.

A Correction

In a previous article I made the statement that meadow fescue has no special value for fine turf. This was based on my experience with it in the East. Since that was published I have learned that meadow fescue is being used extensively in Southern California in a fairway mixture with satisfactory results.

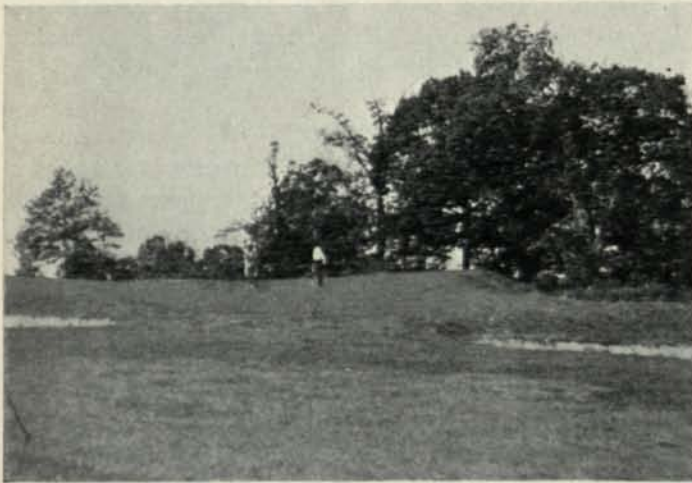
My Work at Elmsford

By FRANK GRANDOLFI, Greenkeeper
Elmsford Country Club, Westchester County, New York



Frank Grandolfi of
Elmsford

IT GIVES me pleasure to write to you about my work as you have asked me to do. My greenkeeping experience covers a period of ten years. My working schedule differs somewhat, I believe, from the usual run of an 18-hole course.

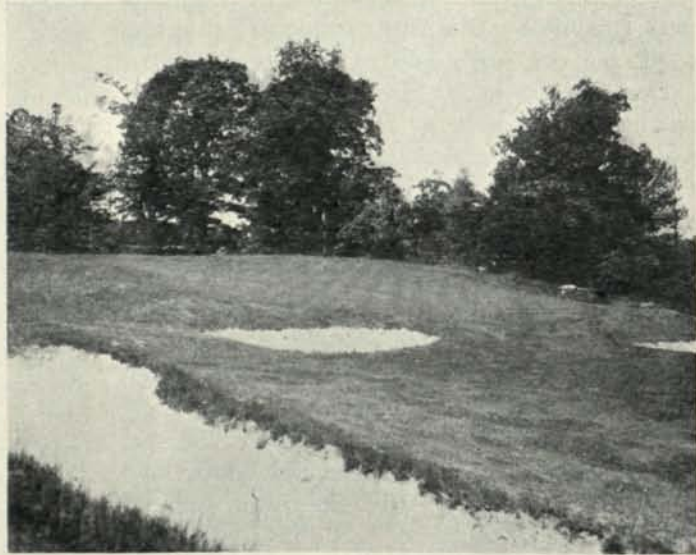


15th Green

The greens are cut daily, six men doing the cutting. Those six also take care of all the traps, and cut all the tees.

Every third or fourth week they top-dress the greens. The compost pile of top-dressing, too, comes under the care of those six greensmen, and in addition to their work on the golf course proper, the greensmen cut and care for the clubhouse lawns trim all shrubbery, and rake and trim the paths through out the course and club grounds.

To one other man falls the duty of cutting all the rough, while another member of my staff is responsi-



11th Green at Elmsford—a one-shot Hole

ble for the care of all fairways, which he cuts daily, weather permitting.

You may be interested in publishing a few photographs of our course. Here is our eleventh green. The hole is 125 yards and only a well played mashie shot will hold the green, which is guarded by two traps in front. Our fifth green, too, is worth picturing. The hole is 490 yards with a green trapped on both sides, at the back, and having two good traps in front. This is considered an unusually good golf hole. The third picture is of our fifteenth green.

I would like to thank the members sincerely for their interest in my work, and to assure you that I am with the National Association of Greenkeepers heart and soul.



5th Green—a 490 yd. Hole