

Valuable Papers Read at Green Section Meeting

BY O. J. NOER

THE annual meeting of the United States Golf Association Green Section was held at the Hotel Astor in New York City on January 6 and 7, 1928, with Mr. Findlay S. Douglas, vice-president of the association, presiding. Two sessions were held on Friday and one on Saturday morning. Approximately 250 green-chairmen and green-keepers were in attendance, and displayed keen interest in the papers presented. Besides reporting on the work and accomplishments of the green section, discussions included such pertinent topics as soils, fertilizers, turf diseases and grub, weed and worm control. The complete program was as follows:

January 6, 10 A. M.

Opening Remarks—Chairman Findlay S. Douglas.

Annual Report of the Chairman of the U. S. G. A. Green Section—H. L. Westover, Washington, D. C.

The Service Rendered by the U. S. G. A. Green Section to the Golfers of America—Wm. G. McKnight, president, Baltusrol Golf club, Short Hills, N. J.

How the Green Section Can Be Helped by Clubs, Green Committee Chairmen and Greenkeepers—Sherrill Sherman, Yahnungdasis Golf club, Utica, N. Y.

Treating Compost to Destroy Weed Seeds—D. M. Boude, manager, Miami Valley Golf club, Dayton, O.

January 6, 2 P. M.

Physical Soil Conditions Affecting Turf—O. J. Noer, Madison, Wisc.

Feeding versus Seeding Turf—Norman L. Mattice, manager, Pine Valley Golf club, Clementon, N. J.

First Aid to the Beginner—A. G. Chapman, chairman, Green Committee, Audubon Country club, Louisville, Ky.

The Proposed Greenkeepers' Convention in 1928—H. K. Read, chairman, service bureau, Philadelphia Green Section, Philadelphia, Pa.

January 7, 10 A. M.

Recent Turf Disease Studies—Dr. John Monteith, Jr., U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Conditions Which Influence the Growth of Turf—C. A. Tregillus, Simcoe, Ontario.

Further Experiments in Grub, Worm and Weed Control With Some Comments



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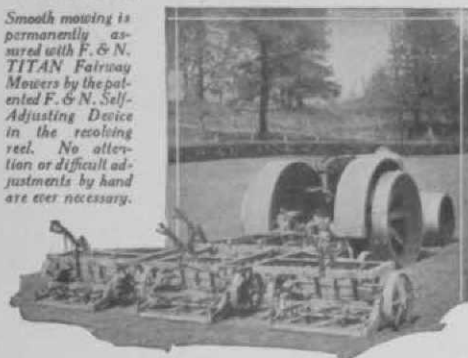
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on the Trend in Greenkeeping—B. R. Leach, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Fertilizer Experiments on Turf Grasses—Dr. Howard B. Sprague, N. J. Agric. Exp. Station, New Brunswick, N. J.

In the opening remarks, Mr. Douglas stressed the important functions of the Green Section, and paid tribute to the pioneer work of Dr. Piper and Dr. Oakley, as well as the present staff. Due to their efforts frauds have been exposed and sound principles of turf management enunciated for the guidance of green-committees and greenkeepers.

Busy Year for Green Section

Mr. Westover presented a detailed report covering the activities of the Green Section staff during the past year. Very many clubs requested specific information which was given by correspondence. The staff were unable to visit as many clubs and districts as seemed desirable due to limited travel money. The experimental work included testing varieties of bent and fertilizer, and continuing work in the control of turf diseases and insect pests. In addition to the turf nursery at Arlington, experiments were continued in Florida, Kansas, New Jersey and Minnesota under a co-operative arrangement. During the coming year, it is hoped to establish co-operative turf gardens in California and the Chicago district.

The fertilizer applications on the regular plots have been continued and the results confirm those obtained in previous years. Acid producing nitrogenous fertilizers continue to reduce clovers and weeds. Mention was made on the effect of corrosive sublimate for controlling so-called "snow mold," and the various mercury compounds for combating large and small brown patch. Several promising varieties of velvet bent, which propagate quite rapidly vegetatively, are under observation, and give promise of developing excellent turf for greens.

Dr. Oakley was reported to be improving in health and is expected to resume active work during the ensuing year. The resignation of Mr. G. T. Cunningham, executive secretary, and editor of the *Bulletin*, was announced, effective December 15, 1927. Mr. O. B. Fitts also leaves on February 1, 1928. Arrangements have been made whereby Dr. John Monteith, Jr., will devote his entire time to the Green Section work after April 1st. He will edit the *Bulletin* and direct all the experimental work. The Green Section is for-

tunate and to be congratulated in securing his full time services.

Mr. Wm. McKnight, president of the Baltusrol Golf club spoke briefly on the service rendered clubs by the Green Section. He called attention to the widespread interest in scientific research in industry. The large progressive corporations maintain scientific staffs and are guided by the results of their research. The workers of the Green Section have in no small measure contributed to the betterment of golf course maintenance. The effect of the use of sulphate of ammonia in controlling weeds at Baltusrol was cited, and mention was made of the excellent greens composed entirely of velvet bent.

Support of Green Section Urged

Mr. Sherrill Sherman of Yahnundasis, in his introductory remarks, told of the excellent results obtained at his club by following the guidance of the Green Section and urged more general and hearty support. He suggested that individual club members be encouraged to subscribe for the *Bulletin*. Mr. Sherman pointed out how individual clubs can conduct experiments and thus supply valuable information relating to turf maintenance problems.

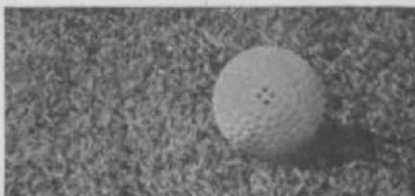
Mr. D. M. Boude, manager of the Miami Valley Golf club, explained how his club treats compost with steam to destroy weed-seeds. The soil is put in a specially constructed box and steam is run in. The process is similar to that used in steaming tobacco beds. This paper provoked considerable discussion.

Mr. Leach explained how carbon disulphide could be used to kill weeds, but expressed the opinion that all these methods would be discarded in favor of more simple methods, notably lead arsenate. This chemical, when mixed with topdressing, kills troublesome weeds such as chickweed, crab grass, etc. This discovery was incidental to the use of lead arsenate for the control of grubs.

Turf Tests at Pine Valley

Mr. O. J. Noer spoke on the physical soil factors as they affect turf growth. He stressed the importance of the size of the individual soil particles and their arrangement. These determine the water-holding capacity, air-space, and the rate at which plant food becomes available.

The importance of the fertilization in improving their turf was brought out by Norman L. Mattice, manager of Pine Val-



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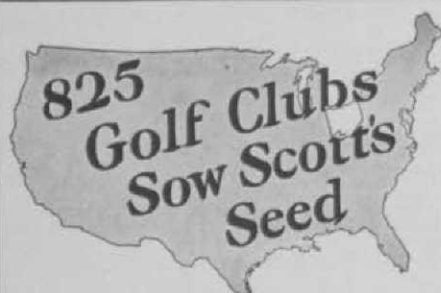
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ley Golf club. The sandy nature of the soil at Pine Valley is generally known. During the past year, the fairways have been topdressed with a mixture consisting of clay soil, leaf-mold from the woods, and mushroom soil. This mixture was further reinforced with fertilizer. This treatment, without the additional use of seed, has caused the existing turf to spread and produce a denser turf. All fairways received lead arsenate for grub control. It was soon evident that the lead arsenate also eliminated such troublesome weeds as chickweed and crab grass.

The difficulties of a new green-chairman was discussed by Mr. A. G. Chapman of Louisville, Ky. Mr. Chapman pointed out the great differences of opinion pertaining to golf course maintenance. He exhibited a loose-leaf system in which information gathered from various sources was grouped under appropriate subheads. A simple cost system was also shown and explained. This system is of inestimable value in building the next year's budget and is effectively used in justifying requests for increased or special expenditures.

Mr. H. Kendall Read announced plans for the proposed greenkeepers' convention. It is proposed to meet at the Country Club of Atlantic City some time during June, the exact date and program to be announced later. Besides visiting the clubs around Atlantic City, a day will be spent at the Pine Valley Golf club, Clementon, N. J.

The Saturday morning session was given over largely to scientific papers. Mr. C. A. Tregillus discussed the various factors which affect turf growth, including environment and soil factors. Turf is not permitted to grow according to its natural habits. In turf maintenance conditions as favorable as possible must be maintained.

New Turf Disease Found

Dr. Sprague of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment station made a progress report in fertilizer experiments being conducted at New Brunswick, N. J. Treatments include manure, various forms of nitrogen, and lime with and without supplementary fertilizers. The percentages of bent grasses, clover and weeds resulting from these treatments were shown on charts, as well as the effect of the fertilizer on the reaction of the soil. Some progress was reported in the use of sulphur to make the soil more acid.

Dr. John Monteith gave a very inter-

esting talk on turf diseases, illustrated with slides. He showed a new disease called *pythium*. This is essentially a warm-weather disease and attacks all varieties of grasses. So far, effective means of combating this disease have not been worked out. It is undoubtedly of importance in the belt south of Philadelphia and St. Louis, where average summer temperatures are high.

Several pictures showing the effectiveness of late fall applications of corrosive sublimate in controlling the so-called "snow-mold" were shown. This disease is confined to northern areas and appears as the snow melts. The slimy mold-growth often totally destroys large areas of turf, but can be effectively checked with bichloride of mercury if applied in the preceding fall.

Value of Mercury Compounds

During the past season, a large number of mercury compounds were tested as control for large and small brown patch. When applied to supply equal amounts of mercury all were effective except mercury sulphide. In response to a specific question, Dr. Monteith expressed the opinion that the more insoluble materials, such as calomel, usually prevent brown patch over longer periods than corrosive sublimate, yet are not so effective against the large brown patch. Attention was called to the fact that there is more danger of injuring the turf with corrosive sublimate than with calomel.

Mr. Leach presented new and interesting material on grub control with lead arsenate. He recommends the use of 5 lbs. of lead arsenate per 1,000 square feet for initial applications, to be followed by smaller amounts when used as a regular constituent of topdressing mixtures. Not only the green but circular areas 25 to 50 feet around the green should be treated.



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