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## Buffalo Grass Fairways Look Promising, Says Major

**M**AJOR R. D. NEWMAN of the Third Cavalry is doing his level best to make the new course of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps Country club now being constructed at Arlington (Va.) one that will be the last word in turf culture.

In a recent letter to GOLFDOM Major Newman makes a number of interesting statements that we believe will stir up thought and a comparison of experience. Here is what the Major has to say, and if there are any who dissent or have additional evidence or opinions to offer, we shall be glad to hear from them.

"Since arriving in Washington, I have consulted all the golf specialists I could find. On my way east I visited golf courses enroute and made a study of them in New York and Philadelphia. I can safely say that I saw no greens that can compare in my opinion with the greens at Hutchinson (Kan.) (Carey Lake) and those at Fort Riley (Kan.). Both of the above courses have Columbia bent. I believe that the so-called Washington in Kansas is Virginia. The true Washington as seen at the Government Experiment Farm at Arlington (one mile from the course I am constructing) has a finer leaf.

"The secret of good greens, as far as I can determine from my experience and observation is lots of water and frequent light top dressing of proper compost. Many of the courses in the east have their own water supply and in most cases this is not adequate. They build their greens, in many cases, so large that they can not take the proper care of them. I believe one reason that seaside courses in England and on Long Island are so good is the fact that there is so much moisture. Creeping bent is almost a water grass. It can be raised almost like cranberries, that is, in nurseries that can be flooded.

"There is little brown patch in the west and much of it in the east, both small and large brown patch. However greens in the east that are properly watered, fertilized and top dressed and mowed in the early morning with the dew on seem to suffer least from brown patch.

"Columbia bent is very susceptible to brown patch in the east, they tell me, and Metropolitan and Washington are the least susceptible and for this reason I intend to plant Washington Bent on the greens of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps Coun-

try Club at Arlington. I brought east some Columbia and Washington and have started them in our nursery and will know more about them later.

"I also brought some Buffalo grass from Kansas and have started a nursery of it. I fully believe that Buffalo is the real grass for the fairways of dry central states and it may do well here. If so, I can see no reason why it should not be just the thing here, since the summers in the east are often just as dry as those in the middle west, with possible exception that there may be more dew here.

"One often hears that bent does not need rich soil. I agree, but I know that it grows better in rich soil. Rich soil is supposed to give a very rank growth, but who ever saw a green where there is too much growth? The ranker the better, if it is kept cut. So I highly recommend a very rich soil bed for greens and very rich top dressing. In the west we made compost piles, manure, sand and loam mixed, but in a pile. I find that a very simple way to make top dressing for greens is to make it right on the ground. Pick out a place where there is a sandy loam, rather strong in sand, and spread well rotted manure rather thickly over the surface once every ten days and plow it under. Do this until the soil is very rich and mellow. This scheme does away with the hand turning of the compost pile and makes available dry compost for top dressing. Piles of compost are usually wet and we all hate to try to put wet compost through a screen.

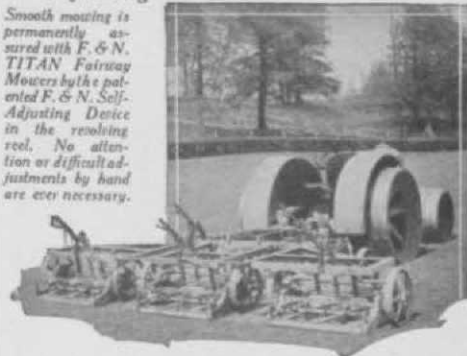
### West Neglects Tees

"The West neglects its tees. They are usually a small squared off boxed-in affair filled with clay, sometimes not boxed in, but with much stone, gravel and other material hard on clubs, on the surface. One seldom sees a well kept tee in Kansas. In my humble opinion after 36 years of golf in most parts of the world, good tees and greens go a long way in making a start for a golf course. A large grass tee is not expensive. A good scheme is to have a squared off corner of the tee in clay for the beginners and dubs. The beginner likes to tee off clay and the greenskeeper likes to have them play off clay where they can't do much damage. Buffalo grass makes a good tee. Bermuda makes an ideal tee from June till the first frost; during the other months it is dead.



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