# Golf Business Notables Comment on Season

# District Stations Are Biggest Greenkeeping Advance

By ED. B. DEARIE, JR. Secretary, Mid-West Greenkeepers' Association

W HAT in all probability is one of the outstanding features of the year's advancement of greenkeeping is the establishment of district experimental stations.

These stations will lay the foundation for scientific information which heretofore was unavailable. Data and information collected at these laboratories will be of inestimable value to clubs within their districts. Problems can be studied in their entirety, freed from their inherited background of doubt and prejudice. Component parts of each problem can be studied with greater detail and thoroughness than is possible on any actual course. The results of these investigations will be presented to the practical greenkeeper in such a manner that he will understand how to take advantage of the information. It will not be necessary for him to re-analyze general agricultural facts in order to adopt them to greenkeeping.

The new station in the Chicago district is planning to study all of the various phases of greenkeeping problems from soil reconnaissance to brown-patch and snowmould. Embodied in this vast array of study will be a wide range of turf problems, involving all phases of turf maintenance from the sowing to the harvesting of the grass seed. Especial attention will be devoted to the adaptability of various strains to use on golf courses. A complete check will be made of the availability of all commercial and organic fertilizers and consideration will be given to the most efficient manner of application. In the laboratory microscopic study will be made of various turf diseases and parasites. Active experiments will reveal the most satisfactory means of control and possibly elimination.

To awaken those in this field to the fact that greenkeeping is based upon sound fundamentals of science undoubtedly will be one of the achievements of these experimental stations. One of their functions will be to co-operate with individual greenkeepers in their own studies and investigations. It is hoped that this action will aid in the development of clear thinking, sound judgment, constructive imagination and effective application to a solution of the multitudious problems of greenkeeping. First, it is necessary to thoroughly understand the facts involved. The technicalities of the subject will be analyzed and explained in a practical manner unthought of in the past decade of greenkeeping.

# Today's Pro Is Real Business Man

By JIM WILSON Professional, the Ravisloe Country Club

I DO not think there is any comparison between the professional of the present day and the professional of ten years ago regarding salesmanship.

In days gone by, the pro was content to wait in his shop for the members to come in and look his stock over. Today, the professional, if he is a business man, which most of them are, meets his members in the locker-room, on the course, in fact, any place around the club, and tells them what he has in his shop to sell.

The professional has a much larger field for making money than before. For instance, when I started in more than twenty years ago, the pros kept a few clubs, balls, and golf bags. Now, most of them have a large assortment of raincoats, leather jackets, knickers, hose, caps, sweaters, umbrellas, also matched sets of irons and woods, which increases their sales considerably.

Furthermore, a great deal depends on the kind of a place he has to display his merchandise, and how he has it arranged. In my opinion an attractive shop and merchandise properly displayed is a wonderful asset towards selling.

In past years the professional had but one room in which he would have clubs, bench for repairs, racks for members' clubs, and a buffing machine. In most cases today, he has a separate room for keeping members' clubs and repair bench, besides a room for display purposes, which should be attractive in every way, such as the floor carpeted, windows draped, show-cases, etc. They have this done in stores, why not the professional's shop?

I think most every club would, or should, be willing to fit up the right kind of place for their professional, providing he has the members' interest at heart.

There are great opportunities for the professional golfer, and I think most of us realize it. There is no reason whatever, why it should not be profitable for those who stay on the job and give their members the service they are entitled to.

There is no question but what the business professional takes pride in his credit rating. They are most anxious to take advantage of their discount if possible. Recently, I was conversing with a salesman representing a well-known sporting goods store and he mentioned the fact they had but very few doubtful accounts.

I think professionals in general realize the revenue that can be obtained from giving lessons, and have therefore devoted a lot of their time in making a study of the game so as to simplify their methods of imparting their knowledge to pupils.

Women golfers have helped considerably towards making it profitable for the professionals. They are taking a great deal of interest in the game, also taking lots of lessons. I think one of the reasons is that they come into the professional's shop, get his advice on selecting their clubs instead of, as in the old days, having the husband's or father's clubs given them, the relics he had stowed away in his locker.

## BEG YOUR PARDON

THE article appearing in our last issue on "Selective Weed Control" was credited in error to George Sargent, instead of to its actual author, B. R. Leach. We regret our error.

Several dozen letters have been received during the past month addressed to Mr. Sargent, asking aid on various greenkeeping problems. As Mr. Leach is an authority in such matters, communications should be directed to him in care of GOLFDOM and not to Mr. Sargent.

## Co-ordination Is Major Need of Clubs

## By C. H. GARARD Manager, Barrington Hills Country Club

I F you were a banker what would be your attitude toward a business that changed its entire directorate every year, and adhered to a policy of firing the whole working organization after each inventory period? Would you consider this business a good banking risk? If you were an executive member of the Chamber of Commerce would you invite a business enterprise having such policies to become established in your home community? You certainly would not?

Then why vote for or tolerate such an arrangement in your club?

A club is the meeting place of men having kindred aims and aspirations. It is the place you meet your dearest friends for social intercourse and relaxation; therefore your club policy should be on a sound basis and a model of excellence that would be an inspiration for others to emulate. A gentleman s club is a haven and a mecca and as such its governing policy should include the best possible thought and effort.

How can this be accomplished?

In the business world there is being developed one fundamental idea that is directly responsible for the great progress that has been made in industrial lines in the last decade and a half. This idea is co ordination. When an individual or group of individuals conceives a practical merchandising idea, those interested in the manufacture of the article in question get together with their banking interests and decide on a marketing plan that will make it easy for the consumer to purchase their wares. The result of this co-ordination brings the factors of the enterprise into one harmonious group and makes for a higher standard of living for all concerned.

A number of individual clubs have proved the value of this co-ordination of all interests and are reaping the fruits of the co-ordination of policy and management. While it is not the primary object of golf and country clubs to make a profit, the elimination of unnecessary waste and inharmonious committee relationships are highly desirable ends to be achieved.

The development of this idea of co-ordination in club affairs is not a seriously in-

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volved task in any sense of the word. It is reduced simply to the problem of getting a group of men together who are willing to put aside pride of personal opinion and work out a definite set of by-laws. First of all the chain idea of selecting members of the Board is the most practical, inasmuch as the majority of the directorate will always be in office more than a year and familiar with the requirements for their particular club. The next step is to secure the services of a competent manager and give him the responsibility of management without too much interference. When this has been done it is well for the President to advise the committee chairmen that it is up to them to work with the manager who is the only power in the club that can successfully co-ordinate the various club activities without friction. And, by all means, be sure to have an accurate and detailed accounting and control system.

With such a program in effect in your club each succeeding year's operations will show a marked increase in efficiency and more harmonious and desirable standards of service will be enjoyed by the club membership as a whole.

# Manufacturer and Pro Relations Improve

## By G. H. MORRIS Vice President, the L. A. Young Co.

F ROM a manufacturer's viewpoint the pronounced progress in the golf business during the past year has been in the betterment of relations between the pros and their sources of supply.

A definite advance has been made in the intrinsic value of factory-made clubs and I think it generally conceded by most competent pro judges that the best of factory made clubs now compare on an equal basis with the highest quality of expertly made bench goods, and certainly, when costs are figured properly, the factory made goods bring a bigger profit to the pro.

The pro trade that constitutes the larger part of the desirable available business has shown itself by attention to sound business practice to call for the utmost that a manufacturer can give in price protection and market development. In effecting a logical and profitable balance between the pro trade and the store trade the manufacturer is up against a delicate situation which I believe is being ironed out rapidly and happily. The manufacturers recognize that the pro makes the golf market and for this reason deserves full consideration; and the pros realize that the manufacturers have to make money, too, and are not to be expected to neglect the development of all sales opportunities on a policy of protection and co-operation for the pro to the furthest degree justified.

Such sales ideas as the matched sets

The swimming pool is getting recognition as a necessity in the complete golf club scheme of things. This one is simple but fits into the landscaping plan nicely. It is at Knollwood (Chicago district)



and bags that arouse a keen urge to throw the tattered old carrier into the junk pile where it is overdue have been capitalized during 1928 in a manner that promises great sales progress for the mutual profit of pro and manufacturer during 1929.

## Year's Pro Progress Along Better Business Lines

O NE of the well-known figures in the golf business who prefers to remain anonymous, so far as his personal views on the year's developments are concerned, tells GOLFDOM:

To the best of the writer's knowledge, during this year there have been no especially important developments. In a general way, as far as our company is concerned, golf professionals have paid their bills much more promptly than in the years past; and it has been our observation that the golf professional is making an effort to keep a more business-like looking shop.

There has been a more or less general complaint from golf professionals that their members are bringing their golf equipment such as clubs and balls into the club and not buying it from them. If this is true, it emphasizes the need of the golf professional selling himself and his services to the members of his club, for it is only in this way that he can maintain his position of the past, and it is the only basis on which he can compete with the department stores who are more and more carrying a complete line of golf equipment, and the merchandising type of athletic goods stores. No longer can the golf professional place the burden of his success in a business way on the shoulders of the manufacturer, for it is not possible for the manufacturer to limit the sale of what he makes to the golf professional only.

The golf professional in every way should try to give more and more service to his members. He should remember that in a great many cases he does not pay the club for the privilege of doing business on their property, and having his trade brought practically to his door—to say nothing of the guarantee of the credit of his members, which he receives.

The golf professional should have in his shop at all times a reasonable stock of the most popular golf balls, and he should not let any personal feeling that he may harbor towards any manufacturer keep him from giving full service to all of his members by being able to sell them any of the leading makes of golf balls that a member might desire to buy.

It would be well for the golf professional to adopt a co-operative attitude of mind towards the manufacturers of golf equipment, for these manufacturers know that the golf professional is their greatest sales outlet and the best interests of all are advanced to the fullest possible degree by having cordial relations exist between the seller and the buyer.

On the part of the P. G. A. organization, it unquestionably would be to the great advantage of their future welfare to co-operate with the manufacturers' associations, towards eliminating from their ranks and their profession that type of golf professional who does not pay his bills for no other reason than the fact that he is not a good business man or a fair dealing citizen. Everything possible should be done by the P. G. A. to build a greater respect for the golf professional on the part of the club member and of the manufacturer of golf equipment.

# Fairway Watering and Arsenate of Lead Are Features

By H. S. BAILEY

Manager Golf Department, J. Oliver Johnson, Inc.

W<sup>E</sup> are directly interested in the grounds end of the business and we believe that two outstanding developments in this line have been shown in 1928 and will show much better in 1929.

The first is the underground system of fairway watering. This is a field that has been hardly scratched except in California where the majority of the courses now have this equipment.

A surprising number of courses in the middle-west and the east have put in this system and the condition of these courses throughout the summer months is sufficient evidence of their efficiency. While this type has a greater initial cost, the operating expense is cut 50% and effects a greater saving each year.

The writer believes that the use of the arsenate of lead treatment for greens and fairways is one of the outstanding developments of the year, and one that will effect a substantial saving in the maintenance budget besides eliminating a great deal of worry and trouble for the greenkeeper and his committee.

# Progress of Turf Study Is Chief 1928 Advance

## By C. B. MILLS O. M. Scott & Sons Co.

A NY sport, industry or profession, call golf what you will, which has fastened such a hold upon our people must have made some rather remarkable progress somewhere along the line. That progress must have been steady and certainly 1928 has not been skipped.

Some will tell you that players have displayed the greatest improvement the past twelve months; more holes in one, a general reduction in strokes per round, better form, longer drives, truer putting.

But we, as seedsmen, are not great golfers. Fifty for nine holes looks mighty good to us. Our contacts are with greenchairmen. They play the game by worrying about how the greens look, what ails the fairways and who did the "excavating!" They are the pros of turf maintenance. With the valuable help of the greenkeeper, the chairman of the green-committee and his fellow members make possible the facilities for play that the other 99% enjoy. It seems to us that this group of laboratory experts is getting better all the time. They are looking into things. Mere claims of a distributor do not satisfy them.

The Green Section at Washington with which every club should be in contact is the head instructor. This body has nothing to sell except information. It is available to all who can use it, at practically no expense. This is our way of saying that from our viewpoint the greatest progress in the field of golf during 1928 has been from the standpoint of turf maintenance as a result of greater understanding of such problems by those who are responsible for the condition of the course. It is up to all of us who serve this market to keep well up in the procession.

# Style Selling and Thinking Are Bright Spots

#### By L. B. ICELY

## President, Wilson-Western'Sporting Goods Co.

G OLFDOM has asked that I state what opments in the golf field during the year; also what I consider to be the outstanding details in the progress of professional business operations during the same period. In answer to the first query, I prefer to make my remarks in reference to equipment only. It is my belief that style in golf equipment is one of the greatest developments of the year. Granted that, first of all, an implement of the game is scien-



L. B. ICELY Wilson-Western's President

tifically constructed to meet the requirements of fine play, tremendous interest is shown by the public in the combination of maaterials used, fine workmanship, and details of design, which result in what we term "style."

For a considerable time golfers have given much thought to the lines, color and general appearance of the cars they drive, the homes they live in, and the

clothes they wear. In these things they have demanded style. This is an age of style, and an implement which merely hits the ball correctly is not sufficient. It must have finesse in construction. Appearance is now a major factor deciding purchase.

It is not an uncommon thing nowadays to hear a golfer say he has a set of advanced models or he boasts a set of 1929 golf clubs before the 1929 season actually arrives. He is getting the idea more and more that he must have the latest in golf equipment, just as he must have the latest design in his motor. I think it is quite within the realm of accuracy to state that style is one of the outstanding progressive features of the year.

In answer to the second question, I think I might honestly say that your own thought-provoking magazine, GOLFDOM, has done as much to stimulate better business in the operations of golf clubs as any factor I know of. The greatest service you can render any man is to cause him to think. It is very evident from the many answers which you have published to ideas of vital interest appearing in your publication that you have done just that thing.

We have mentally alert men managing our golf clubs and pro shops, and their keen interest in the numerous challenges which you have posted cannot help but result in a more intelligent handling of the business phase of golf. Allow me to say that I consider GOLFDOM one of the leading factors in the progress of business operations of golf clubs during the past year, and, furthermore, your continued helpful discussions of the practical problems of goli club operations will do as much to fix the necessary firm foundation for the development of golf in America as any one thing 1 can call to mind.

## Better Financing—More Study; Year's Features

## By JOE ROSEMAN

#### President, Roseman Tractor Mower Co.

THIS year we have found the golf clubs generally have installed better accounting systems, have paid more attention to financial obligations and are really in better financial condition than we have ever experienced before.

Greenkeepers and green-chairmen are figuring their budgets in such a way to guarantee that accounts will be paid within 30 to 60 days and only a few of the new golf clubs are unable to pay their debts at the close of the season. Naturally we still have promoters and enthusiastic golfers who are organizing clubs without having first secured the necessary financial backing, with the result that manufacturers are holding the bag for most of the materials purchased; and in many cases these manufacturers are bound to suffer a loss because some of the new golf clubs cannot proceed or exist without readjustment of the plans adopted without the originators having first learned the true financial requirements.

Greenkeepers generally are studying their problems with a great deal more care than was known heretofore and their purchases are being limited to equipment which will stand up for years instead of months without excessive repairs. The greenkeepers' associations are doing worlds of good for the golf clubs by having these men exchange ideas on methods of overcoming diseases of plant life without long, tedious experimentation which of course is costly.

The greenkeepers of the Chicago metropolitan district have saved golf clubs thousands of dollars in the past two years by the intensive study of turf life and proper labor saving equipment while their business meetings are devoted entirely to exchange of experiences on eradication of evils. Such intimate group discussions are becoming general and to us, the movement is significant and valuable.

# Good Signs in "Getting Down to Business"

## By L. W. CRANDALL President, The Burke Golf Company

THE operation of the average golf club during 1928 has unquestionably taken a decided turn for the better while still leaving ample room for further improvement in the years to come.

The average club is something like the average player; 100% efficiency in operation is a remote ideal as difficult of attainment as 18 holes in par. However, in three distinct ways improvement has come about. In the first place; it has been discovered that the greenkeeper knows more about his job than the average member of the committee and he is left more to his own devices. Second; there is a tendency toward developing more active memberships resulting in increased revenue to the club. Third; the pro is becoming less of a jack-of-all trades. He is conscious that modern business demands specialized effort and he is developing along lines dictated by his natural aptitude.

Many pros are realizing that, like other lines of business, they can accomplish many things thru organization that cannot be done in any other way.

They have excellent officers and by using and recommending modern business methods, they will get the approval, support and assistance from club members that is so essential to the successful operating of golf clubs and any other business for that matter.

So far as the playing attributes of the average course are concerned, progress will be made in 1929 in the science of grass culture with particular reference to the control and elimination of certain maladies at present "raising Ned" with greens. With reference to the business operation of the club, increase in revenue will be the objective. This will perhaps come about by the elimination of the inactive member and the addition of new members that will do their share in the support of the club.

One of the most important things that is often overlooked in club management is that of seeing to it that the club gets its money's worth for the revenue it has to spend.

Greater knowledge of club management is more easily obtainable than ever before and with this knowledge comes the proof that to hold some one individual or one

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small group responsible for results is more effective than to have a large number of committees playing politics to secure funds for their pet plans.

Each year's experience will bring improved conditions and continued effort and co-operation will bring the desired results.

# Better Methods, Closer Contacts, in Year's Business

## By CHARLES C. WORTHINGTON President, Worthington Mower Company

THE year 1928 has been marked by I. more or less important changes in methods, views and practices, pertaining to golf course maintenance. As an example, much keener interest than ever before has been taken by greenkeepers in studying the effect of rolling fairways and putting greens and particularly its possible bearing on the unusual prevalence of brown patch. Many authorities think this scourge is due to the hardened condition of the putting green turf, brought about by the increasing number of players who tramp over it today and the use of such mowing apparatus as hardens and mats the sod.

An active movement has been inaugurated during the year to introduce power mowers on putting greens. The growing popularity of this system, indicates that hand mowing will eventually give place to these interesting time savers.

The use of various forms of artificial tees has become so general, the rapid passing of the tee stand with its disagreeable supply of sand seems inevitable. The majority of golfers welcome the chance to get away from the wet and grit of the age-old, sand-made tee.

An outsanding innovation of the year. is the adoption of night mowing for the fairways. A striking example of the success of this was presented at the Walker Cup tournament at Wheaton, Ill. The course during the play was cut at night. by the aid of ordinary automobile lights placed upon the tractor and gang mower combination. The advantages of cutting the fairways at an hour when no interruption to the players can occur and the fact that the usual schedule for the daily mowing operation may often be comfortably maintained, despite casual rains or serious heat spells, are so obvious the general adoption of this system seems assured.



Mowing at night at the Chicago Golf club

move cannot fail to be an increasing benefit to the profession at large and to the golfing fraternity, to whom the scientific and practical maintenance of the course as an institution, has become a matter of paramount importance.

# Knowing Costs Is Hopeful Sign at Times

By L. A. FERGUSON Ideal Power Lawn Mower Company

I T APPEARS to us that GOLFDOM has a great deal to do with the better business methods now employed by golf clubs in general as against only a few years back.

The writer has visited a great many golf clubs in the country, as you know, and sees a marked improvement in connection with standardized methods now employed from the clubhouse down to the back fence.

Old clubs are beginning to learn what costs are and have whittled their program to the point where a great many of them are working on the budget system, which is the only equitable plan to my mind.

New clubs, of course, have all this to learn and while some of them get the idea rather quickly it seems to take considerable time on the part of some to realize that they have spent more money than they have contracted for with their members. On the whole I believe that golf has just about come to the point of stabilizing all its expenditures, maintenance methods and clubhouse extravagances.

Personally, I think your paper has done

a great deal to assist golf, in that you have been frank in your statements relative to the foolish plays that many clubs make in connection with the aforesaid plans and methods.

Our company looks upon the golf field as a very attractive market, one that will purchase for all time to come the better class of equipment. I personally think that golf is bound to continue a growing institution and on even a more stabilized basis.

# Give Pro Credit for Progress

#### By JULIAN W. CURTISS President, A. G. Spalding and Brothers

I T is often a wonder to me if golfers, generally, realize how much the professionals have done for the royal and ancient game. In what way, you may ask, has this been done? The answer is threefold. By encouraging beginners, by teaching, and by example of their skillful play. It is certainly a self-evident fact that the golfers of this country exceed in skill those of any other. We have a wonderful group of young players, and their success is largely due to the splendid instruction they have received from the professional teachers of the game.

If we only had in tennis an equal number of high grade professionals who could give proper instruction, I will venture to say that it would double the popularity of that splendid game, and in my opinion the Davis cup would still be in this country. Everyone loves to play the game that they play well.

A good professional is a real asset to any golf club and certainly it should be a pleasure to the members, in part payment at least of the services rendered, to make most of their golf purchases in his shop. As a rule, he knows far better than the player the clubs best adapted to his or her style of play.

# Free Tees Unnecessary With Sand Displaced

By WM. LOWELL, JR. V. P. The Nieblo Mfg. Company

STARTING about 1924, two years after several golf clubs thruout the country talked of doing away with the sand boxes and giving away manufactured peg tees instead. Of course at that time there were comparatively few golfers using manufactured tees and what few there were were using the Reddy tee which was the only one on the market up to this time. However, the popularity of the peg tee increased very rapidly, particularly from 1924 on.

Today about 90 per cent of the golfers of the country are using peg style tees.

As the use of peg tees increased more and more, clubs decided to do away with the sand boxes and install modern ball washer stakes, but not having any sand at the tees.

One of the obstacles encountered by the golf club officials to this plan was purely an imaginary one because a good many of them felt by doing away with the sand it was necessary for them to give away manufactured tees. This was bad because in most cases the privilege was misused and the club used far more tees than would have been used orginarily. In fact the feature of this plan with the golf professional, who depends largely upon the revenue of his golf shop, lost the sale of golf tees which in itself does not show any considerable profit to the pro. But the pros like to sell the tees because the sale of tees bring golfers into their shop enabling him to sell other golf merchandise such as golf clubs, balls, etc.

The latest trend, one which we have sponsored and pushed, is for the golf club desiring to do away with the sand boxes, to let the pro keep on buying the golf tees as they have been doing for over six years. We estimate that over 100 golf clubs in the United States have followed this plan successfully and each day there are more clubs following suit. It stands to reason that inasmuch as almost all of the golfers have been buying their tees for several years, that they are so accustomed to so doing that they think nothing at all of the elimination of the sand box but on the contrary will probably be very glad to see it go.

St. Louis, Mo.—Weber-Damme Co., 724 Mullanphy St., is opening a golf course equipment and supply warehouse and sales office. The company has been established 61 years and although the golf business is a recent development plans have been laid for energetic sales and service effort.

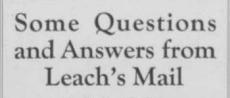
# Watering Economy Has Field's Attention

## By W. A. BUCKNER (Buckner Mfg. Co.)

It is our belief that the most outstanding development in the business end of golf during the past year is the widespread interest shown in the hoseless system of irrigation. A great many clubs throughout the United States have adopted this method of irrigation by the use of self-closing, underground valves installed in the fairways flush with the soil on which the sprinklers are snapped. An installation of this type reduces the irrigation costs of any golf course approximately 50% as compared with the old method.

We do not believe there is another item of initial expense in connection with golf course up-keep that will pay one-half the dividend on the investment as will be earned by a hoseless system.

Practically all the outstanding clubs in California have already adopted this method. This is, of course, due to the fact that it is of California origin, but eastern clubs are fast falling in line.



By B. R. LEACH

## Question

Sir:

Four years ago we seeded our greens with what purported to be fescue and South German Creeping Bent. The bent failed to materialize to any appreciable extent. The fescue has not done very well and, four years having elapsed, it has practically disappeared.

Native to this locality is a very hardy velvet or crab grass which we are unable to identify. We have commonly termed it crab grass, but several so-called experts classify it as velvet.

It is a very tough, coarse growth and spreads quite rapidly. We have spent lots of money cutting it, that is, with a very fine sharp disc, cutting it both ways in an



- This little golf ball is anybody's. It is costly to the player but its chief victourness lies in its ability to undermine the morals of caddies whom it tempts to dishonesty or ball-booltegging.
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