



Underwood &amp; Underwood

**World's Best Putter—At Arlington, Putting Machine for Testing Suitability of Various Grasses for Putting-green turf. Pendulum Imparts Same Amount of Power to Each Putt. A. S. Dahl Is Operator Here**

or washed onto the turf then we will have gone a long way toward lessening the weed problem in fine turf.

### Steaming the Topdressing

The treatment of topdressing by means of live steam for the purpose of killing the weed seeds present therein is having considerable vogue in various sections of the country at the present time. It was very minutely discussed at the 1928 meeting of the Green Section in New York. The discussion brought out the fact that there were a few strong adherents of the method and many who questioned whether it would pay to inaugurate the steaming system.

There is no doubt that the proper steaming of topdressing will kill all weed seeds present therein and to that extent will lessen the weed problem on turf topdressed with the steamed compost but there are other aspects of the problem which should be thoroughly considered before embarking on a steaming campaign.

In the first place before you begin topdressing with this steamed, weed-seed free soil it will be necessary to take out all the weed growth already present in the turf to be topdressed for the plain and simple reason that this steamed soil will have no effect whatever on the weeds already present and established. Now it is relatively easy to take out dandelion, goose grass,

plantain, etc., but as anyone knows it is not quite so easy to make a clean job of the chickweed, crab grass, fennel and other weed growths of a matted and patch-like growth.

Furthermore after you have begun your system of topdressing with steamed weed-seed-free topdressing, how about all the weed seeds that are going to blow and wash onto the green. The steamed topsoil won't kill these new arrivals. Rather they will germinate and grow just as usual. So that in the last analysis the steaming of topdressing helps somewhat in the handling of weeds but it only covers about one-third of the problem, leaving the other two-thirds as wide open as ever.

### Carbon Disulfide Method

The laborious process of steaming all topdressing often costs much money and it is doubtful if the labor and cost involved is always justified. Had I been satisfied of the wisdom and advisability of treating topdressing for the control of weed seeds I would long ago have published the details of a method of treating this material with carbon disulfide whereby all the weed seeds are killed and the soil freed of adverse bacteria and fungi. The cost of treating topdressing by the carbon disulfide method is reasonable. The fact that it might not pay to treat topdressing in