

## NEW JERSEY'S LEAD IN STATE Turf Research Financing FURNISHES FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**M**ENTION was made in June GOLF-DOM of the New Jersey state legislature's appropriation of \$5,000 for financing turf research at the state agricultural experiment station. Information available at that time inadvertently omitted reference to the work the Greenkeepers' association of New Jersey had done, together with the U. S. G. A. Green Section, various park commissions and cemetery organizations of the state in getting this state appropriation recommended.

Officials of the New Jersey greenkeepers' association, headed by F. J. Roth of Plainfield, president, were prominently instrumental in getting this issue considered and carried through to a successful conclusion, and are to be highly complimented on their pioneering efforts. Other sectional organizations of greenkeepers have shown interest in the New Jersey development so it will not be amiss to set forth some pertinent comments that have been made by greenkeepers, club officials and turf experts.

The first admonition handed out by all of those interviewed is an earnest warning against jumping into the battle with a hastily considered and incomplete plan. The research organization at New Jersey is a "going institution," but the extent of its operations was limited by the common cramping factor in turf research, lack of money. The greenkeepers, as individuals, undoubtedly were responsible for a much larger turf investment, per man, than any of the others who would be benefited by the legislative appropriation, but numerically they were not large enough to rate very high in any solo dip into the state's funds, no matter how sincerely they believed they were entitled to help. But with the park commissions as a certainly representative body answering for a big part of the public, and the individual home owner's lawn interests put into the picture, and with the cemetery organizations allied, the folks concerned with better turf became a group large enough to forcibly present their case, either from the angle of cash value to property or from the not-to-

be-neglected standpoint of voting power.

The U. S. G. A. Green Section had their men on the job with evidence of what the Green Section had been able to do despite its financial restrictions. With the intensely practical men of standing and the acknowledged turf scientists both on the job, there was bound to be weight to the testimony.

### Turf Research Not Cheap

Turf research, to be of practical value, is far from a cheap proposition. The time element, treatment requirements, extensive field work, tedious, persistent and competent investigation and checking, all run up into big money. They are vital or the work will be of such limited good and of such indefinite nature that it could easily be worse than valueless. So in such territories where the greenkeepers' or district golf organizations have an ambition to put into effect turf research like that established in New Jersey the interested organizations might as well set themselves down for an adequate financing program and declare themselves for a sufficient period of time to give the proposition a real chance to make good.

Reference was made by one of the parties interviewed to one state organization's intention to take students out of the state agricultural college, give them a necessarily superficial training at the golf turf plots and send them out to help greenkeepers as the operating details of the organization's field extension work. Without reservation this plan was subjected to criticism because it involved sending insufficiently trained men out to advise practical veterans who were placing a great deal of faith in the value of assistance from laboratory technicians. Not only might heavy investments in turf be imperiled by ill-advised recommendations of the half-baked visitors, but the prevailing trend of whole-hearted co-operation between the advancing practical man and the well qualified turf scientist would suffer a sad set-back.

In many parts of the country state stations are doing work of profound signifi-

cance and value to the golf courses of those states. Elsewhere in this issue of GOLFDOM there is an article from the Florida station that, although originally intended for the lawn-owner, is very helpful to the greenkeeper. On every hand there are other indications that the work of the state stations could be extended and made profitable to the golf clubs of the territory were the work organized and financed with this end in view.

The New Jersey legislature's action should be followed by similar activity in other states. Which will be the next to further the cause of better turf with less uncertainty and expenses?

## What to Use for Money?

By DANIEL C. SNOW  
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**A**MONG the illuminating experiences that come to the greenkeeper on a course where work is plenty and dollars few is the remark often made to him by members passing in their play, "I played the Swansdown Course yesterday. It was in wonderful shape—greens like velvet." If the greenkeeper is a wise man, as of course all greenkeepers are, he will smile genially and say, "Yes, I played that two weeks ago. It is a fine course and in top shape."

Perhaps the member will come back with, "They had great piles of black stuff near all the greens. Don't you think some of that would do our greens good?" The greenkeeper, a wise man, as of course all greenkeepers should be, allows it would, but suggests that it costs a lot of money. He knows that the course in question employs three men to his one and spends ten times as much money. Some day he may have a chance to explain this to the interested member, but not now.

It is my job in this round table monologue to speak a word for the greenkeeper on a course where members like to play on velvet greens well mowed and watered, well weeded, well fertilized, but where money is not abundant. Circumstances in the shape of wishes of members and committees often compel him to do the things he ought not to do, and leave undone the things he should have done. He must evolve for himself a working compromise between the desires of the players and the fundamental needs of the course. As he mows, clips, rakes, clears up, patches sod, and buses himself and his men about the

work necessary to make his course presentable to the eye and playable to the ball, he may be often disheartened as he realizes the weeds are invading his greens, his nursery bed is getting away from him, his experimental plots are not receiving the attention they need. That is too bad, particularly so when he knows that from this neglect the course will suffer more the next year than it will this.

Brother greenkeeper, determine for yourself what you consider the most fundamental needs of the course in your care. Spend as much time as possible on those needs, knowing there will be sure and increasing returns with every year. Spend what time is necessary to make the course presentable and playable. Your reward will be an easy mind and sweet sleep o' nights.

Best of all, inconsiderate members and committees are the rare exception. Your efforts will be appreciated and an occasional remark from a member that your greens are the best in the section barring none, will assure you your work is worthwhile.—From the "Newsletter" of the N. E. Greenkeepers' Club.

## Long Island G. A. Forms Green Section

**A**BOUT twenty-five greenkeepers and green-chairmen attended the first meeting of the recently organized Green Section of the Long Island Golf Assoc., held July 1, at Wheatley Hills C. C., East Williston, L. I. After an examination of the demonstration turf plots, planted at Wheatley Hills by the U. S. G. A. Green Section in cooperation with the Metropolitan Golf Assoc. Green Section, a dinner was served to which the visiting greenkeepers and green-chairmen were invited as guests of the club. Following dinner, Mr. Kenneth Welton of the U. S. G. A. Green Section spoke briefly on the recent work of that organization, emphasizing the relationship between the parent body, the local green sections and the demonstration turf plots.

Other speakers were Ralph W. Curtis, professor of ornamental horticulture at the N. Y. State College of Agriculture, and H. C. Hallock, associate entomologist, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, who has been assigned to beetle work on Long Island.

It is planned to hold a similar meeting this fall.