

Tardy Hiring Leaves the PRO Out of Luck

By BOB WHITE



HERE is an attempt to describe an imaginary conversation between a chairman of a green committee and a professional. It takes place on a rainy Saturday afternoon, late in the fall.

Mr. Thompson is Chairman of the Green Committee and Bill Robinson is the professional.

Bill—Well, Mr. Thompson, I will be leaving the club at the end of the season.

Mr. Thompson—Why, Bill? That is a surprise to me. Where are you going?

Bill—To the new North Windsor Country club.

Mr. Thompson—I thought they only had nine holes ready.

Bill—Yes that is right, but I am to build the other nine for them. I am getting a good salary and a house on the grounds.

Mr. Thompson—Well, why didn't you talk it over with us before you signed with them?

Bill—Well to be perfectly frank, I thought I better sign while I had the chance yesterday. That may seem hasty to you but I have been with you five years and I think that on lots of occasions I did not get full consideration from the club.

Mr. Thompson—What do you mean?

Bill—When I wanted to know how I stood with the club as far as returning for this year was concerned, I was kept on the anxious seat for several months. I am not blaming you or the club either. It just seems to be part of the usual plan of handling the professional, at any club, or at least a great many.

Mr. Thompson—You know we had a new committee appointed in the early part of the winter and they had to meet and make plans.

Bill—Yes, but why delay the meeting,

hold me up on my stock order and keep me guessing in general?

Mr. Thompson—Yes, you're right Bill. It was just thoughtlessness. You've got me thinking now. I guess I never had the golf professional's viewpoint before. I like you and wish you were staying with us, but hope you have a lot of success at your new job.

Picking the New Pro

Bill—Yes, I know you have been a good friend to me. I am going to try to make good. About the pro's viewpoint, here are some ideas to bear in mind when making your selection of the new fellow to succeed me.

First: Check up his application through golf concerns. They know the credit responsibilities and character of the men.

Second: Sign your professional up for a definite one-year contract, from a certain date to a certain date. That is good business.

Third: Indicate in the contract certain definite duties expected. Each club has its own problems to face.

Fourth: Protect your professional on his accounts with club members. I have lost certain sums each year through unpaid bills.

Fifth: Assure your professional that you will support him and buy his merchandise, provided he stocks standard balls, bags and clubs.

Sixth: Have an indoor golf net placed in the clubhouse for the professional to use in giving lessons on rainy days. It will be the club's property and can be used by the members for practice when not needed by the professional.

Seventh: When you are considering hiring the professional, tell him and golf

DOES YOUR CLUB PAY THE CADDIES BY TIME?



Send for
folder, and price

Many leading clubs throughout the country do.
Acts as an inducement to boys to become caddies.
Makes caddies as willing to work for poor players as good ones.
Has been proven the most satisfactory to both players and caddies.

THE CALCULAGRAPH

PRINTS TIME OF "START," "RETURN" AND ACTUAL AMOUNT
EARNED IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.

Is used by many leading clubs.
Is the ideal time recorder for timing caddies.

CALCULAGRAPH COMPANY

General Office
50 Church St., New York

Western Office
565 W. Washington St., Chicago

companies, too, the final date of settlement. Make that date early enough to permit offers the pro may receive from other sources to be answered with assurance. Many a professional has hesitated between two possible positions and finally lost both. Then, too, let him get his stock order placed early.

Mr. Thompson—That listens like good stuff. Why didn't you talk this over before?

Bill—Well, I never really had a good chance. You see, we have never talked over anything like this, because you have

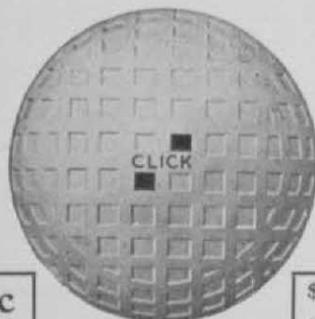
had your work and I have had mine. The rain today gives me the chance.

Mr. Thompson—Well, I think now that we will try to get a professional for next year. I remember now before we engaged you we had about two hundred applications.

Bill—Sure. A lot of professionals seek chances to better themselves during the winter, assistants try to become professionals and even amateurs try their luck.

Mr. Thompson—Well we didn't have time to read all the letters. Some of the

SELL THE NEW 1929 CLICK COLONEL



75c
each

retail price

\$9.00
Per Doz.

The result of twenty-five years of scientific research and earnest application to the ideal of producing the best golf ball possible.

ST. MUNGO MFG. CO. of AMERICA
121-123 SYLVAN AVE. NEWARK, N. J.

In both Dimpled and Meshed markings.

"I'd 'a' broke ninety, BUT—"

IDA BROKE

By Chick Evans and
Barrie Payne

Grantland Rice wrote a special introduction for this golf masterpiece. Here you get the funny side of golf as well as the serious—its humor and philosophy. It's a book for the duffer as well as the man who breaks ninety. Just as *The Compleat Angler* is the fisher's classic, this is the golfer's. Chick Evans, Grantland Rice, Barrie Payne—what a trio!

\$3.50

Of special interest to pro's

This book will be sold to golf professionals for purposes of resale at a special discount of 40% in quantities of 3 or more copies at a time. State on your order "Special Discount: Goldfom."

E. P. DUTTON & CO., INC.
286-302 Fourth Ave., N. Y. C.

members knew you and that settled the matter.

Bill—That was fine for me, but how about the fellows who wrote letters of application? They planned the composition of their applications, figured out the proper salary to expect, mailed the letters and waited. For what? Not even an acknowledgement. Is that the spirit of fair play on which golf is founded.

Mr. Thompson—No, I guess not. But we couldn't answer all those letters.

Bill—Well, multigraphed letters are not expensive, and even a postcard would do. But anyway, if you keep in touch with the manufacturers' employment bureaus and GOLFDOM they will eliminate a great many applications by suiting the man to the job. If the club wants a married professional, why should a single man write, and vice versa? If the man must have charge of the course, why should a tournament player apply? The P. G. A. employment bureau we hope will get functioning on a basis that will handle these details.

Mr. Thompson—Thanks, Bill for the suggestions. We'll try them out. I guess when a professional is left so much to himself as far as supervision is concerned, more care should be used in the selection. If we get one as good as you, we will be glad.

Bill—Thank you, Mr. Thompson. There are plenty of good professionals but a lot of them do not have a chance to get jobs worthy of their ability.

Soil Condition Essentials Controlled by Greenkeeper

By MATT MELVILLE

Greenkeeper, Southmoor Country Club

THE matter of maintaining soil fertility is entirely up to the greenkeeper. The action of the soil does not remain stationary, but it is constantly changing and the different elements in the soil are being transformed into energy which makes plant life possible. It is the ability to release these elements in the soil and transform them into plant food, that keeps the greenkeeper interested in his work.

On the average golf course we are dealing with either clay or sand, that is either heavy or light soil. There are of course, definite classes of soil; the important ones of which are gravel, silt, loam, clay, sand and humus. Humus in its natural state is in timber land, where the soil reveals

the decomposition of leafy matter. We are not very often blessed with a soil of this type to work with on golf courses, but more often with either clay or sand. In clay soil we always find some humus.

Sandy soils are always deficient in food content, brought about through excessive air circulation and drainage. Humus should be added to sandy soils, to give them more body and also add food that is rich in nitrogen. Sandy soils are always lacking in potash and adding this element is also an improvement.

Heavy clay soils are very often rich in food values, but owing to the fineness of the particles that make up the soil, the water and air cannot penetrate sufficiently for the food elements they contain to release themselves. Sand and humus added to the heavy clay soils break up the heavy particles, bring lightness and allow air to penetrate the mass.

Tightly packed particles of clay out of which has been squeezed the moisture and air is practically impossible for the growth of plant life. All soil is dependent on air and moisture to produce plant life. This air and moisture is controlled entirely by the size of the particles that go to make up the soil.

Bacterial action is the agency by which chemicals in the soil are converted into plant food. This action is controlled by air and water which are allowed to percolate through the soil.

The presence of plant food is determined by the amount of water, because this food must be in a soluble form. The temperature of the soil depends greatly upon the amount of moisture held within and brought to the surface by evaporation. A small portion of sandy soil magnified will show larger and smaller particles, surrounded by air spaces. These are being constantly changed by the action of temperature, the amount of water and also evaporation.

When you cultivate soil you loosen the surface layer, thus forming a mulch, the loose surface of the soil or the mulch prevents the escape of moisture through capillary attraction. The mulch checks evaporation, otherwise moisture would be wasted as would be the food elements that are held in suspension.

We cannot practice the same method of cultivation on a putting green a farmer can on his crops. Our system of cultivation and mulch is made possible by top-dressing.