

has to be handled but calls for greater accuracy in the rate of distribution and more uniform spreading of the material.

This situation was sensed by one of the oldest manufacturers in the agricultural field—O. E. Thompson & Sons of Ypsilanti, Michigan, established in 1857. This company for over 50 years has been building grass seeders for broadcasting, and spreaders, and out of this experience has developed a line of wheelbarrow type spreaders for spreading these highly concentrated dry fertilizers uniformly and accurately as rapidly as a man will walk.

Machines have been developed for the fine dry powders which require a very thin application up to and including the more heavily applied fertilizers. The quantities to be spread can be accurately gauged. The machines spread only as the wheel turns on the ground. The hoppers are kept close to the ground so that wind does not affect the spreading. The experience of this company in building grass seeders for broadcasting from the finest to the coarsest seeds which vary so greatly in the amounts sown per acre, was of great value in developing the type of

equipment which would give the best results in handling these present day chemical fertilizers.

## Canada Supervises Trade in Prince Edward Island Bent

By G. LeLACHEUR

Assistant to Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Seed Branch

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND bent (*Agrostis tenuis*) is one of the so-called natural grasses of the "Garden of the Gulf" of St. Lawrence. The seed is produced under the close supervision and inspection of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, and bears its tag or seal of approval. It is shipped west to British Columbia and California and south to Maryland.

With the rapid increase in golf clubs during the past 10 years—there are now over 500 in Canada and more than 5,000 in the United States—an urgent demand arose for bent seed from pure crops, which would produce fine turf sufficiently hardy to stand heavy wear and close clipping throughout the playing season, and still live through the winter. Prince Edward

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Island bent grows on dry to moist soils ranging in type from sandy to clay loam, all rather low in fertility and strongly acid. The meadows persist through dry or wet summers and stand exposure to very severe winter conditions. Provincial golf clubs have greens down in native bent for 27 years.

Before being harvested for seed, every field of Prince Edward Island bent must be approved by a Dominion seed inspector. It is required to be over 95 per cent pure as to variety, to be vigorous in growth, and relatively free from bad turf weeds with seeds difficult of separation.

### Growers in Co-op. Plan

All the growers are members of a co-operative association which owns and operates a central cleaning plant, specially equipped and organized for receiving, cleaning, sacking, storing and marketing turf grass seed. Each seed lot is received with a declaration from the grower identifying it as from an approved seed crop. It is cleaned and sampled under the supervision of an inspector, analyzed and graded at a Dominion seed laboratory, and finally sealed in the sack with a metal seal behind which is placed an inspection tag certificate.

The chaff, dust and weed seeds are cleaned from the Prince Edward Island

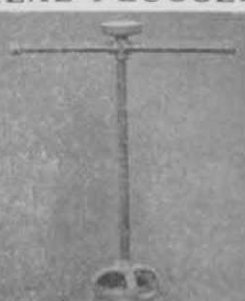
bent to make a uniformly high quality of about 90 per cent pure seed, and the average germination is 85 per cent. Weed seeds remaining in most lots rarely exceed a half of 1 per cent. The well-milled vital seed runs about 6,000,000 to the pound and can be sown at the minimum rates, namely, 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet, for putting greens and playing courts, and 1 to 2 pounds for fairways and lawns.

Prince Edward Island bent produces a very fine, close, dark green turf. Its high purity assures uniformity in texture and color. It grows upright, spreads by short underground stems or rootstocks, and makes playable turf quickly from sowing. Watering is required only during dry periods; frequent soil top dressing is not necessary, and for most soils, sulphate of ammonia will supply fertility. Pennsylvania clubs report that Prince Edward Island bent is highly resistant to brown patch.

A good start has been made in the production of Velvet bent (*Agrostis canina*). The Prince Edward Island strain of this variety is being multiplied as rapidly as possible, and a small quantity of seed will be available this season.

Prince Edward Island bent is recommended for use in Canada and the northern half of the United States.

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