

Crying Need of Drainage Answered on New Job

By J. O. CAMPBELL

Greenkeeper, Wethersfield (Conn.) C. C.

WHEN I came to the Wethersfield (Conn.) C. C. March 1, 1928, the club had been in existence about 12 years without a greenkeeper.

The first problem was drainage. The members had never been able to play over a number of the fairways without rubber boots until late in the spring. Naturally they were anxious to see that condition changed as soon as possible. About half of our fairways are low and wet. There is still plenty to be done, but I have accomplished quite a bit which the members appreciate.

The lower half of No. 6, which leads down to our water hazard, was particularly bad. The chairman of the green committee and the writer started to walk over the course. When we came to No. 6 we found our galoshes were not high enough to keep our feet dry. We decided to start our drainage program right there.

This is the way I put in the drainage and it has been very satisfactory: We dug our main ditch 14 in. wide and 32 in. deep diagonally across the fairway running five laterals into it. In all there was about 500 ft. of ditch. We laid 4 in. glazed bell tile, with the bells against the drainage, covered the tile with burlap bags, then filled the ditch to within 6 in. of the ground level with 2-in. stone. We covered the stone entirely with burlap bags, then filled the ditch with top-soil which I had placed to one side for that purpose.

Old Job Went Bad

I find that in laying tile if the top-soil is placed over the stone one gets better drainage as this soil is much more porous than the soil brought up from a greater depth, and burlap bags prevent loose dirt from filtering into the tile. The glazed tile doesn't freeze and break as does the soft tile.

When I put my drainage across these fairways I found where the old drainage had been put in; 3-in. soft tile had been used. It was badly broken and filled with dirt. It takes 4 in. tile about 3 times as long to fill up as it does 3-in. tile and the cost is but a few cents more. We find our cost of drainage is running about 50 cents a foot, including labor and materials.

Running across No. 1 and No. 18 fair-

ways was an open ditch which provided drainage for approximately 20 acres. In these fairways we used 12-in. tile, 48 in. deep, for our main line, using stone and burlap bags as we did with the smaller tile.

Drainage Work Pays

On No. 2 fairway there was a wet weather spring, which was active until the first of June. This spring came out about 225 yards from the tee. I sank a small well 4 ft. square and 3 ft. deep in this spring, and filled it with stone. I then laid 4-in. tile down to my main drainage line which ran directly across the fairway, into an open ditch which extended across the rough, emptying into a deep swale. This swale gives me a permanent outlet for my drainage. No. 2 fairway was exceedingly wet all over, seepage coming down from the hillside to lower levels, where there was practically no grass. Now we have a good fairway and plenty of grass.

I filled up several open ditches which were about one ft. wide and one ft. deep, supposed to be used for drainage, but had not been successful. All golfers know that an open ditch on or along the side of a fairway is bad.

It is impossible to estimate the value of this work in dollars and cents, but there is always a smile on the members' faces when they play over these dry fairways which once were small ponds until late in the spring.

Dry Spell Kept Glen Oaks Greens Force Busy

By ELMER F. AFFELDT

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THE year just past was none too good to us located on Long Island. It opened with a cold, wet spring, and ran into a very dry summer of long duration when the fairways looked as though they would never show a vestige of green again without plowing them up. With the fall rains even though they did come late, brought fairways back beyond expectation.

Those fairways, as well as spots on others, that did not respond as well as they should, were top-dressed with a compost of soil-sand-poultry manure, which was applied rather heavily and then were seeded. The fairways then were dragged with a piece of chain-link fencing 8 by 10 ft. which was hooked behind a light tractor. This left them pretty smooth with the cuppy spots