

# Paris Green, PRO'S REMEDY, Peps Club

By JACK FULTON, JR.



Karl Adams, pro-greenkeeper at Paris, Ill., was so sure that a real major league green would liven up his club that he took a chance and put it in himself.

**H**OW far can a pro go, with good judgment, in stirring up club interest and morale? This is something that the pro in the metropolitan districts doesn't often have to consider, but in the smaller towns it's a matter of life or death for the pro job.

Naturally, every ambitious pro wants to make his job better, but there is an ever-present risk that if he goes too far in trying to help his club out of lethargy he may be misunderstood, condemned and "canned." So, what to do?

Karl Adams, for the past two years pro-greenkeeper at the Paris (Ill.) C. C., is one of the fellows who took a well considered chance with the result that the members of that club today rate him as one of the organization's highly valued assets. Adams was a professional baseball

played for 15 years, going through the usual route of stepping from the bushes into the big time where he played in Chicago, Philadelphia and Cincinnati, and then reverted to the minors. When the arms and the legs go back on you playing ball, back you go to the circuits of the tall uncut, no matter how good your head for the game is. Adams, pondering on that, resolved that when he went into the business of golf he was going to protect himself against any stiffening of the brawn by keeping his brain limber. When he was with the Roselawn G. C. at Danville, Ill., as pro, Herb Culp, the greenkeeper, gave him a good elementary course in greenkeeping. Adams was an apt pupil and Culp an enthusiastic and conscientious instructor.

## Built Harmonious Spirit

When Adams came to Paris the club was in one of those unfortunate periods that smaller town organizations experience. The membership was getting smaller and there was a lamentable lack of cooperation and of any objective. One of the first things Adams did at the club was to quietly and diplomatically work for the elimination of the cliques and their replacement with a strong spirit of harmony. This was a job that had to be done by deed and not by word. Adams finally decided that the one thing that would stir up healthy club interest was to show the members what even one green, designed, built and planted in "big town style," would do to make the course more attractive.

Now let him tell how things went after he had decided to put in this solitary new green as his contribution to the club's general improvement:

"At this time I was no. the greenkeeper, simply the professional and instructor. I was also making trips to Watseka, Ill., and instructing at the Iroquois C. C. Upon my first trip there I found that the Iroquois club had very beautiful greens. They were of Washington bent. At this time I thought what a wonderful thing it would

be for the Paris club to have greens like these.

"Mr. Jordan, the Iroquois green-chairman, sold me enough stolons to build a green approximately 4500 square feet. I brought them home with me and told the chairman of the green committee what I had and what I wanted to do. That is, to stimulate the activities of the club with respect to its membership by building a bent grass green. He discouraged me in a way and told me it would be best if I built a nursery instead. I told him I believed the nursery would not do the club any good at that time. Some drastic move should be made in order that the club would gain new life. I found one especially good friend in the club, Charles S. Brown, who at that time was not a member of the board, but is now chairman of the green-committee. He was very encouraging and was very strong for bent grass greens. He also told me that he did not know what the board would do about it but that he was with me regardless.

### Takes a Chance

"The Monday following my purchase of the stolons I began to work with three

men, a slip and a pair of horses, without the sanction of anyone other than the encouragement of Mr. Brown. I did not ask anyone for anything, their advice or their help. It took from four to five days to build up the body of this green. I had to move about four hundred yards of dirt from a distance of from one hundred to two hundred feet. After the body of the green was built up I then sodded the bunkers and traps and back of green with bluegrass sod. This was done at this time so that when the putting surface of the green was ready the entire green would be complete.

"This green is tiled with three strings of four-inch tile. The right hand traps have a string of four-inch tile through them. The left hand traps have six 10x24 tiles sunk in twos, making three holes filled with gravel, which makes a very good drainage. I had to answer many questions in regards to what kind of grass I was putting on it. After the bent grass started to come up many people wanted to know if that wasn't weeds, so you see how little they knew about the building of a bent grass green. The bent stolons were put in on the first day of September, 1928, with a light top dressing of sand and top soil. The fall of 1928 this green was cut twice and top-dressed three times. The spring of 1929 it was rolled and then allowed to grow for three weeks, then cut and top-dressed with 75 per cent of sand, and was then cut each week and top-dressed until the 21st of June when it was turned in for play.

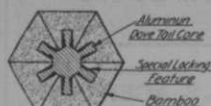
"The actual cost of this green was \$415. That includes the labor and all material outside of my own labor.

"The outcome of my building this green has been this: The club built two more the fall of 1929. The membership of the club has advanced from 80 to 125. I do not say that anything that I have done or tried to do caused this. Yet I feel that the things I did do had a great deal to do with bringing the club back to where it is. It has also furnished the experience that I desire and must have to continue as a greenkeeper as well as a professional.

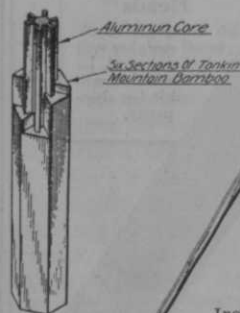
"Since this green has been put in to play I have had a great many compliments on it, not only by the members of the Paris Country club but experienced professionals and greenkeepers.

"On this green for a worm- and grub-eradicator I used arsenate of lead. For a fertilizer, cottonseed meal."

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