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Wisconsin Holds First Greens School

By H. HANKINSON

FIFTY-NINE greenkeepers from Wisconsin and neighboring states were enrolled in a four-day short course given by the Wisconsin College of Agriculture at Madison, February 10-14. It was the first course of its kind to be offered by a university anywhere in the Middle West.

Experts in soils, agricultural engineering, agronomy, and landscape design from the College of Agriculture, and authorities on golf problems from other places, composed a faculty of unusual merit. Faculty members from outside the college included John Monteith and A. S. Dahl, both of the green section, United States Golf Association; C. A. Tregillus, manager of the A. D. Lasker estate, Lake Forest, Ill., and O. J. Noer, soils and fertilizer specialist, formerly of the University of Wisconsin soils department.

Work of the course was carried on by means of lectures, discussion groups, and laboratory sections. Kinds of grasses, grass seeds, diseases and other pests of grasses, soils, fertilizer, and drainage problems, labor and equipment, landscape and planting problems, were the main subjects for the lecture and discussion periods. The laboratory sections which took up about half of each of four afternoons gave special instruction and demonstrations in weed and grass seeds and their identifica-

tion, in gas engines, in land drainage, and in soils. Students of the course were divided into four groups, thus giving everyone an opportunity to attend a different section each day.

Discussion periods followed the lectures and were conducted informally. The greenkeepers were free to ask questions of personal interest on golf course and fairway problems, while those in charge of the course gave advice and offered practical ideas.

During the course, three important talks were given on grasses by Mr. Monteith. On Monday he covered the subject of grasses adapted to golf courses and the matter of grasses that have been tried out by the green section. On Tuesday morning he took up the different strains of bent grasses, and on Thursday he gave an outstanding talk on the care of turf, especially on greens. Interesting lantern slides illustrated the points that were made. This talk was followed by a two-hour round table discussion of greens and grass problems with Mr. Monteith presiding. The members of the short course took an especially active part in this discussion.

Soils Are Feature

Soils and fertilizers in relation to the turf on golf courses were given an important position on the program. Lectures and discussions on the basic principles

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involved in these subjects were under the supervision of C. J. Chapman and E. J. Graul of the soils department of the university and O. J. Noer, specialist in soils and fertilizers. Mr. Graul and Mr. Chapman handled the problems of soil acidity and soil as the source of plant foods. Mr. Noer rounded out these subjects with discussions on physical and other soil conditions that are favorable to turf and the proper fertilizers that are needed.

At eight o'clock on the second morning of the course the subject of grass seeds and their impurities was opened by Prof. A. L. Stone of the agronomy department. The next morning at the same hour Mr. Dahl discussed the control of grass diseases on greens. He was followed by E. H. Wilson, agricultural entomology department of the university, who explained the matter of handling animal and insect pests that infest golf courses. The round table discussion that followed focused its attention primarily on how much poison could be used on a course without injury to the grass.

Pleas for Native Trees

Prof. Franz A. Aust made a special plea for the planting of native trees, and native trees only, as a part of Wednesday afternoon's program. The talk was illustrated with fifty lantern slides to show what trees are desirable and to show the proper pruning operations in taking care of them. Prof. Aust's talk Friday morning dealt with the preservation of natural beauty on golf courses and the responsibility of

greenkeepers in the matter.

Thursday morning at eight o'clock Prof. E. R. Jones, agricultural engineering, explained the principles of land drainage. On Friday morning he continued the subject, discussing in particular the various problems connected with golf course drainage.

Mr. Tregillus, formerly of the University of Toronto, appeared on the program both Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. His first talk was an excellent presentation of the golf course labor problem. In his second lecture he gave practical suggestions in the making of home-made golf course equipment and in the use of some of the best apparatus of commercial manufacture. He emphasized the care of apparatus after using, especially that which comes in contact with fungicides, such as mercury which is very corrosive in its effect.

An inspirational speaker whose name was not given on the regular program was Carter M. Harrison, who has a scholarship with the United States Golf Association. He explained the relation of the amount of grass clippings to the root developments of the plants, giving the results of his studies at the University of Chicago carried on under the supervision of Ezra Kraus, world renowned authority on plant physiology and plant growth. George B. Mortimer of the Wisconsin agronomy department, also a special speaker on the program, gave the results of three years' experience in the pasture fertilization.

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