



The fourth green at Inverness. Distance is 431 yards and the green is located on a nicely contoured knoll, a natural situation of high order

Greenkeeper First Factor in Course Making; He'll Get the Grass

By WM. J. ROCKEFELLER

A Continuation of the Reflections of Inverness' Veteran Greenkeeper

NOWADAYS we have so much glib talk about "bent greens" that in most cases it is ludicrous. A visitor, an official from some old or new club where a lot of money has been spent, will breeze in. About the first pop-eyed remark he will make will be, "Our greens are bent." That settles the whole question. Nothing more is to be said—the final word has been "spake." Now, in the first place, we know, or should know, what he means, or thinks he means, after 30 years of summering and wintering with every kind of grass under the sun. It is a thousand to one bet that the said "sees all and knows all" chap don't know that, of bent grasses alone, there are over one hundred distinct varieties!

Now bent, at its best, bred to its finest character, like human beings, is ideal for putting greens. However, it is true that one should not have a one-track mind about grass or anything else. (Hay fever victims excepted.) Common sense should always be in command up in the old dome.

However much the financial condition of the club may be "bent," and members be weeping and gnashing their teeth over another assessment caused by tearing out 18 fine putting surfaces of real, honest-to-goodness durable grass that stood up and didn't have a nap, that sort of thing will go on.

At Skokie in 1922 I saw eighteen of the finest putting surfaces in the world, and what were they? Just poa-annua—humble, often despised, little, modest, hard-working, but so useful "poa"—and those were not the only ones!

How about those wonderful greens at Youngstown?

The answer? First-class greenkeepers!

At Inverness the greens are of the bent grass family, that we call "Inverness Ten," because the tenth green is practically the mother of them all. She had been breeding greens at Inverness for nearly 30 years and they have all the fineness and durability that dear old friend of the very numerous "Bent Family," Velvet. How-

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THE HAND TO
SPRINKLE
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ever, let us get away from a "grass specialty," for Inverness is not "out" to sell grass stolons, but to have ideal putting surfaces for the 1931 Open Championship.

Greenkeeper the Big Factor

Getting right down to the things that really count, the first question I always ask is not what kind of grass you have. It is what kind of a greenkeeper have you? If the answer is satisfactory, it means that his upkeep is good in all of the course details—greens, tees, fairways, bunkers, rough—in fact, everywhere the really good conditions should, in justice, exist. That means infinite patience and industry on details. Golf upon a first-class course is a game that calls for shots to match its class but not any form of crucifixion. No bunker should be so constructed and maintained that a genuinely fine recovery shot cannot be played from it. Its fundamental penalty should always be one and no more for the properly played shot. A capable and always sensible greenkeeper will insist upon his men being very diligent about such considerations of play.

Keep the Equipment Right

Now here is something that ought to be emphasized: No workman in any job can do good work with poor tools or those out of condition. A season's upkeep of a golf course takes a lot out of the best machines. This brief piece of advice is especially for small clubs which are springing up all over the country.

Don't lay your greenkeeper off at the close of the golf season. Keep him all winter. It pays, for there is plenty for him to do. Practically all of his machines should be completely "taken down" and overhauled, cleaned, sharpened, and put into first-class cutting shape for the coming season.

A live, ambitious and industrious greenkeeper will be busy all winter and more than earn his wages. Common sense should make this clear at once to all small clubs. The clubs that have grown big do not need this advice. They have long since learned the practical value of starting a season with all machinery and equipment of every kind in first-class shape.

It means big economy besides the best playing conditions.

Chicago, Ill.—Golf Construction & Supply Corp., 520 North Michigan avenue, recently has been established to deal in all supplies for miniature courses. J. A. Carter is president.