

HELP! A POET?

Greenkeeper Gets Even with Kickers; Busts into Verse

CY J. O'TOOLE, greenkeeper at Thunder Bay G. C., Alpena, Mich., is a philosophical sort of a citizen. His course has been having snow mold, but Cy has cured it with a strong solution of ammonium sulphate sprayed directly on the infected areas after they have been well brushed. However, during the period of treatment play must be on temporary greens; complaints from his players followed.

O'Toole says that in some parts the opinion seems to be that a greenkeeper's literary capacity is limited to signing his name to the payroll. To enlighten those who entertain this delusion as well as to rebuke politely the uninformed critics of his temporary greens Cy puts up the case in two installments of verse. The Sweet Singer of the Michigan meadows, bats out the first part in the form of a lament entitled "The Golfer's Spring Song" in which the players growl fortissimo about the temporary greens and the reason for them,

giving Cy a shot of the same old stuff, "It doesn't happen on our lawns," following up with the high-powered home talent advice usual under the circumstances.

In the "Greenkeeper's Answer," he strums his lyre laughingly in these lines:
*You say your education
 Will make of short duration
 All the countless ills peculiar to our turf.
 If I thought that such were truly
 What I needed, I would surely
 Be upon you like a ton of raging surf.*

*I'd ask you countless questions
 And welcome your suggestions,
 As I would a brand new mower for the
 tees;*

*I'd use your pet contraptions,
 And all your smart adaptations,
 Till the soil of eighteen fairways graced
 my knees.*

*But remember all my greens as
 The background for such scenes as
 "Two hundred golfers played the course
 today."*

*While on your lawns, so neatly printed,
 Were the signs that strongly hinted
 That trespassers would go to jail to stay.*

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*But now an early parting
Is called for, as I'm starting
To look for other cares within our means.
Still I fear, with all our gassing,
In the springs that will be passing,
You'll still be playing temporary greens.*

Manion, Culbertson Combine to Issue "Contract Golf"

AS IF THERE weren't enough ways for a golfer to lose his shirt in a match, Jimmy Manion, the boy sharpshooter from down St. Louis way, has blossomed out as the author of a refined and murderous system of links competition entitled "Culbertson's Contract Golf."

The basic idea of this new form of golf contest is somewhat akin to contract bridge in that a side "bids" the number of strokes it thinks a given hole will require. If opponents think they can negotiate the hole in fewer strokes, they "bid" lower. Bidding continues until neither side wants to shave another stroke off the last hazarded estimate. Like in bridge, unsuccessful bidders may "double" if they think the final bid is lower than is reasonable. "Redoubles" may be made by the bidding side or player.

Thus is the "contract" arrived at on each tee. Points are awarded for successful filling of a contract, and likewise points are awarded to the opponents if the bidders fail to make their contract. The number of points either side wins depends on the number of strokes over or under the contract it takes the bidders to hole out their final putts. It doesn't cost much and you don't win much if the final total of the two players is within a stroke or two of the contract figure, but a side takes it on the chin plenty if it varies greatly from its original estimate. As many as 80 points can be lost by a side going 10 strokes over its contract; as many as 60 points can be won by a side shooting 5 strokes under its contract.

Manion's book is pocket-sized, which is just as well because the table of points won or lost is fairly complicated and the book should really be carried along out on the course for consultation. Besides the table, the book contains full descriptions and hints on how twosomes, threesomes and foursomes play "contract golf," and a number of humorous drawings suggestive of the tight situations and unfortunate