

Solon Squawks About Stealing "The Peepul's" \$; Blames Golf

By HERB GRAFFIS

FROM THE MOST entertaining show on earth, Washington's Comical Congressman, that merry, mad mob of high priests of hooie, comes another bit of delicious foolishness to divert the attention of the nation from its miserable total of empty bellies.

In making sounds about where the government should cut expenses (but not in any manner that would bring congressional salaries down to a 1933 level) Representative Thomas L. Blanton, Democrat from the sovereign state of Texas, orates about how the Department of Agriculture pets the golfer at government expense. Mr. Blanton quoted from a story on Green Section activities which he referred to as being written by one of the Department's special writers. The writer happened to be W. R. McCallum, able, conscientious Washington *Star* newspaperman, who is no "special writer" for the Department.

In Mac's story there was reference to the \$40,000 budget of the Green Section; \$40,000 being the budget of a happier year, not for 1932 or 1933. Blanton pounced on this \$40,000 figure and declaimed somewhat as follows:

"Do the farmers want \$40,000 of their hard earned tax money spent each year by these long haired scientists in the Department of Agriculture developing special turf greens for the golf courses of America?"

The answer to Blanton's question is easy. Of course the farmers don't want any of their \$40,000 spent by "long haired scientists" for golf or by long haired, loud mouthed clowns in Washington who drive the country nutty and add expense to the Congressional Record extravagance by talking at great length on subjects giving them an opportunity to reveal a complete and pitiful ignorance.

In the first place the \$40,000 was not farmers' money. When \$40,000 was spent it was the golfers' money out of the USGA budget. For the research work of the Green Section, on which only a fraction of its budget ever can be spent,

the Department of Agriculture furnishes the land and the office space and such a minute amount in actual money that Blanton should blush one of a congressman's most becoming blushes at taking so much of the golf clubs' multi-million dollar government tax payment in return for so little. For the help the Green Section gets from the Department of Agriculture the Section handles inquiries on turf problems, which involve lawns and pastures. Ordinarily this detail would require the work of at least one man in the Department.

If Blanton wants to give the taxpayers some return for the dough they're paying, and that should be his first worry, we suggest that he smart himself up on how much golf is contributing to farm relief. He can start out by figuring the amount of money farmers in Kentucky, Illinois, Oregon, Rhode Island and other states get out of the golf course grass seed they sell. He can pause along the line of march to consider how much heavier golf courses are taxed than the farmers. He might do a little figuring on how much money the farmers have collected by having golf courses established alongside their farm acres, which immediately means the farm land is made desirable suburban residential property.

Should the gluttonous hunger for facts not be appeased by the few items of research above suggested, Congressman Blanton might delve into just how golf rates as a poor man's game now, and as a tremendously popular pastime for women. He might take into consideration that there are 22 municipal golf courses in Texas alone, and 503 municipal courses in the entire United States, practically all of which are self-supporting. Possibly because the municipal golf courses don't call for a deep dip into the pork barrel, congressmen are not aware of the existence of these many heavily patronized playgrounds.

Sluggish appetites stirred up by a round of golf mean more sales for the farmer whose patron saint the Honorable Mr. Blanton nominates himself during his

exhibition of not knowing what he's talking about. Farm relief by locker-room consumption of corn liquor alone involves some husky figures with which the statesman might concern himself if he wants to get the real facts of life concerning the relation between agriculture and golf.

We are compelled to deny further space to the Honorable Mr. Blanton's amusing liberty with facts and content ourselves with the thought that it probably is an excellent thing that a lot of people play golf despite Mr. Blanton. If the time employed in playing golf were spent thinking about congressmen, it would be very tough on a lot of congressmen. So Blanton and some of the other boys had better encourage golf all they can.

Green Section Bulletin Covers All Turf Diseases

THE LATEST ISSUE of the USGA Green Section *Bulletin* is the largest and probably the most valuable number of this publication ever made available to turf workers. Its 100 pages are crammed to overflowing with the latest and most authoritative information available on the subject of Turf Diseases and Their Control, and it is difficult to see how any club or greenkeeper will be able hereafter to get along without this valuable reference book when disease hits the turf. John Monteith, Jr., and Arnold Dahl, the authors, spent many months compiling the information the issue contains, and as can be judged by the foregoing remarks, have done a bang-up job of it.

The work is divided into three parts. In the first section, the authors discuss fundamentals of plant diseases and outline the history of disease control. The middle section is devoted to methods of disease control which, according to the authors, may be divided into three principles: use of disease-resistant grasses; employment of correct cultural practices; and the judicious use of fungicides. Each of these three divisions is discussed at length.

To the average greenkeeper and green-committee, perhaps the most valuable section of this issue of the *Bulletin* is the last 50-odd pages in which each turf disease—brownpatch, dollar-spot, spot-blight, snow-mold, damping-off, scald, winter-kill, poor drainage, and all the rest—is taken up individually, its symptoms described at length, the causes explained, and specific

remedies recommended for its elimination.

Careful and thorough reading of every page of this latest contribution to golf course maintenance literature is strongly recommended to everyone connected with the growing of fine turf. And the booklet should be carefully preserved ready for immediate reference when diseases threaten the future of growing turf.

While not ordinarily the custom of the Green Section to make its *Bulletins* available to clubs outside the members of the Section, since these clubs have furnished the money with which the researches of the Section have been financed and it is upon these researches that the subject matter of the book is based, it has been decided in the case of this particular issue to make it available generally to anyone interested, upon payment of \$1.50. Orders should be sent to the USGA Green Section, P. O. Box 313, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington, D. C.

GOLFDOM urges green-chairmen and greenkeepers everywhere to send for this bulletin immediately, provided they have not already received it due to their club's belonging to the USGA.

Movies of Members Ideal for Club Entertainment

AT AN EVENING meeting of members at Westmoreland C. C. (Chicago district) the main entertainment feature proved to be a 16 mm. film produced by the joint efforts of several members owning 16 mm. cameras, shots being taken from time to time throughout the season until about 800 feet of useful material had been accumulated. An effort was made to include as many members as possible in the pictures. This was done quite easily by working at the first tees, last greens, and first and last fairways. Drives, putts, and all shots in between were shown. The pro was shown demonstrating form in normal and slow motion. Close-ups were used frequently to aid recognition.

The film gave practically everyone a chance to see how he looked in action on the course, and was said to be one of the best entertainment features that had been presented at the club in years.

MOSS ON fairway or green is almost certainly the result of poor drainage or less commonly, impoverished soil. The cure is obvious.