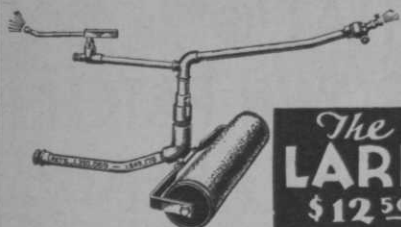


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Chairman Invited to Michigan Greenkeepers' Meetings

MICHIGAN and Border Cities Greenkeepers Association held their annual meeting at the Rackham Golf Club in Detroit, April 2.

Thirty-five members attended and it was decided to hold a regular meeting each month at which speeches would be given by visiting experts, and papers by greenkeepers read. It was also decided to keep in close touch with the State College and to work with it in advancing greenkeeping.

As chairman of green committees showed a great deal of interest last year at the meetings, they will be invited to all monthly meetings this year.

Following were elected: Pres., William Smith; Vice-Pres., John Gray; Sec.-Treas., Ross Axford; Directors, William Beaupre, Clarence Wolfrom, James Proven, Charles Prieskhorn.

A vote of thanks was given to the officers for good work during the past year, especially to Ruben Scott, retiring secretary, who for the past three years has done a great deal for the organization.—H. S.

Old-Time Greenkeeping

By CHARLES ERICKSON

NEARLY ALL of us older men know that there is always something new to learn. To bring out this point I am going to give you an idea of how greenkeepers did things in olden days, thirty years ago when I was first greenkeeper.

There wasn't very much at that time. We never tried to remodel our greens. After the greens and the course were made we just cut out the greens with a common lawn mower and then rolled them. We didn't even know enough to top-dress. If they were a little low in places we filled in by raising the sod.

If there was grass that wasn't quite so good we went out on the course, took a hand sod cutter, picked up the best we could see and placed it on our greens. Then we had to roll them. I made a roller out of cement, it weighed 900 pounds, but the committee told me it wasn't heavy enough. We finally got a heavy fairway roller, which I still use, and that weighs 2800 pounds. I had four men and we had to push and pull. A couple of our greens were very sloping, so I took a team of

horses and a long rope. The horses pulled the roller up the sloping greens, and we pulled it back by hand power.

New Sod When Old Turf Died.

We never thought of top-dressing or fertilizing. When the grass was worn out, due to much rolling, we just replaced it. This lasted for a little while, but I found out that something else had to be done. I went out in the woods and got some wonderful dirt and started to top-dress, which helped me considerably.

Our water pressure was very low because the piping was in when I came on the job. It was only $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. piping for 400 yds. so you can readily see what I was up against. We couldn't get the sprinkler to turn around, so we watered mostly by hand, which took a long time. For two greens we had to haul water; we had no pipes. Greens were as hard as a country road, but one thing I must say is that I was never troubled with worm casts.

I used common lawn mixture, blue grass and redbud, for seed in those days, and we had a mixture of crab-grass and dandelions besides that. When I wanted to thicken the grass I used a little clover because it was quick to germinate and filled in rapidly on the poor places.

Fairway Difficulties.

I had four men and four mowers, a man and a horse to each mower. It took me a whole week to cut my course. It was a slow, tiresome job. The men had to walk behind the mowers and when the greenkeeper wasn't around they took their time. That is the way things were done years ago. We never saw a clean golf course. Old clippings from the mowers were lying all over the course. Lots of times we had to take the whole crew and clean up.

We had the same trouble with the rough. After we had cut it with a hay mower, we had to rake and pile it up. Next day you could see hay all over the country. Members got their golf balls in the hay and you could hear all kinds of language, and we couldn't blame them.

We greenkeepers have to study our problems all of the time. We have to know a little of everything. We have to be blacksmiths, tanners, carpenters, bricklayers, stone masons. We have to be able to take care of all the little details that come our way. We also have to keep on the look out for brown-patch, scald, worms, ants, in fact all diseases of grasses. In other words, we are doctors of the green.

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