

### Mole Cricket Extermination with Frogs Unlucky

**W**HAT gave early promise of being a successful venture in exterminating the mole cricket that does much damage to Florida courses ended unfortunately at Jacksonville. The exterminators were exterminated. W. H. Klee, of the Nitrate Agencies at Jacksonville, tells the sad story:

"The mole cricket originally caused considerable damage in Puerto Rico to grasses and vegetables. Poisons were too expensive and a frog from Africa, known as *Buffo marinus*, was imported. Results were astounding in the elimination of the cricket.

"Florida infestation of the mole cricket centered around Ortega, near Jacksonville, at which place the Florida CC, oldest club in Florida, has its golf course. Several years ago the cricket did very considerable damage, particularly where Bermuda Grass was grown. Poisoning was a very expensive proposition, particularly in the distressed financial condition that confronted a lot of golf courses.

"Our Mr. Bob Simms, who not only is

a good fertilizer man but an enthusiastic golf player, knew of the success in Puerto Rico and we imported by air mail some 13 *Buffo marini*. The arrival of the frogs created considerable interest and they were released on the golf course. There were definite evidences of the frogs consuming large quantities of crickets.

"We became thrilled over the almost immediate propagation of the *marini*, of embryo *buffos*. What actually happened was that the original shipment of frogs disappeared, either through their being eaten by snakes prevalent on our course, or by pot shots taken by various members or caddies who seem to delight in killing any living thing on the golf course and, sad as it proved, all our *polliwogs* died an untimely and too young death.

"The net result was that *Buffo marini* did not show any real net worth to us in eliminating the mole cricket. Thus ended an experiment that promised lots of interest and potential profit. (The profit would have accrued had the experiment, both in killing crickets and in propagation, been successful. We had tentative orders for lots of pairs of the African frogs.)"

# Everything

for economical course upkeep

in the NEW

# J. Oliver Johnson Catalog

If it has proven its value and thrift in the maintenance of golf courses, you'll find it in this newest and most comprehensive of Johnson catalogs. A RELIABLE guide to RELIABLE supplies and equipment—a call book for speediest service—direct from the world's largest source of supply.

Send for your copy today.

## J. OLIVER JOHNSON INC.

*World's Largest Golf Course Equipment House*

940-960 W. Huron St., Chicago, Ill.

Phone Monroe 6580