



L. B. Icely, Pres., Wilson Sporting Goods Co., right, and Ed Rankin, new Wilson division's Gen. Mgr., look on as Walter Hagen signs up.

Hagen Golf Products is another move to meet increased demand during the war and to be prepared for postwar demand. King Sportswear is a 'Division of Wilson' today. The same is true of O'Shea Knitting Mills. Our plant at Ironton, Ohio, added since the war for expanded leather goods production, and our unit at Tullahoma, Tennessee, to increase production of baseballs and softballs, are all a part of a broad program of expansion. These are only the beginning of the increased facilities we believe public demand for Wilson products will necessitate after the war is over and the upsurge of sports takes hold."

The new Hagen Division of Wilson Sporting Goods Co. with its modern plant at Grand Rapids, Mich., will operate as an individual and separate unit. There will be no change in the key personnel, in the factory proper, according to Mr. Icely.

Since the inception of the L. A. Young Golf Co., Walter Hagen has been actively engaged in field and development work, and will, of course, continue in these ac-

## Wilson Acquires Hagen Golf Products

L. A. Young Golf Company Becomes Division of Wilson Sporting Goods Co. in Expansion Move to Prepare for Postwar Golf Boom

**B**IGGEST news of recent years in the golf industry came shortly after the first of October from L. B. Icely, with his announcement that the Wilson Sporting Goods Company, of which he is president, had purchased the factory, real estate and all other physical assets, and good will, of the L. A. Young Golf Company of Grand Rapids, Mich. Acquisition of the home of the internationally famous Walter Hagen Line of Golf Products adds substantially to the manufacturing facilities with which Wilson will be prepared to meet the vast demand for postwar golf and other sports equipment.

In making this announcement, Mr. Icely said, "We believe that America's sports will see a boom after this war the like of which has never been seen before.

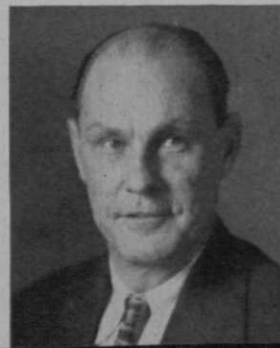
"With the promotion sports have received at home during the war—with the increased public appreciation of their importance to all sectors of American life—with the support of ten millions and more of returning service men, who know what sports mean to physical fitness, relaxation and peace of mind, the popularity of sports will increase tremendously.

"Our present expansion program began with the war. The purchase of Walter

activities. Ed. Rankin will continue as general manager with Bob Smith as factory superintendent in charge of the golf ball and golf club plant. Dick Link will remain in charge of research, design and development capacity. Other key members of the Hagen staff will continue with the new ownership.

"This much you can say," said Mr. Icely. "The purchase of the internationally known Hagen Line of Golf Products is a definite progressive move in the broad expansion program that Wilson Sporting Goods Co. has adopted. While this new

Left, below: Bob Smith, in charge of ball and club production, and Dick Link, in charge of design and development of new Wilson unit.



division will continue to operate as a unit, it will now have all the laboratory and engineering skill, all the priceless experience, all the increased purchasing power and modern facilities of the Wilson Sporting Goods Co. to draw upon. These will be utilized to the fullest extent to further develop the fine Hagen Line."

The Wilson Golf Equipment line will continue to be manufactured in Chicago, under the same management and policy as it has been in the past.

Hagen, one of the most colorful figures in American golf history, expressed his belief that postwar golf would increase far beyond prewar dimensions due to the broad introduction of outdoor sports to millions of young men and women in the Services and the fine physical condition in which their service training has put them. "In view of the tremendous increase in the number of golfers when war ends," said The Haig, "all of us at Grand Rapids plant are delighted with the move that has made us part of the Wilson organization. I always have regarded Mr. Icely as one of the most able and farsighted men in the golf industry and consider myself down-right lucky to become associated with a man who backs up unusually keen vision with aggressive action."

## Rhode Island Greens Meet

Members of the Rhode Island GA met at the R. I. Agricultural Experiment Station at Kingston, Sept. 11 to review the experimental work in progress and to hear Dr. Davis describe her ideas concerning the future of the Green Section of the USGA. The following day Dr. Davis accompanied by several members of the Rhode Island staff attended a meeting of the Connecticut Greenkeepers held at the Waterbury CC.

The program started with a tour of the turf plots where green chairmen and greenkeepers rated the USGA creeping bent selections and the new selections of velvet bents. Several clubs expressed an interest in establishing experimental "pie" greens using some of the new strains of grasses as soon as sufficient vegetative material is developed.

Great interest was shown in the disease control plots where several new organic fungicides are being tested. The group was particularly impressed with the control of common turf diseases by a new type of organic mercury fungicide called "Puratized N5D." This compound proved effective in the dilute concentration of 1:17,000. Information on the control of turf diseases by these new fungicides may be obtained from the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, Kingston, R. I.

Dr. Davis reported extensive attacks of the Copper Spot disease this year in the vicinity of Washington, D. C. An epidemic of this disease occurred on velvet bent in Rhode Island and apparently is quite prevalent in Connecticut. The leaves of the grasses when attacked become copper colored due to the countless number of spores produced by the fungus. The standard fungicides tried on Copper Spot haven't given satisfactory control.

Dr. Davis revealed that the USGA is considering the establishment of regional research centers throughout the United States and that Rhode Island Experiment Station was chosen as the guinea pig because of its good record in fine turf investigations. Cooperative projects with the USGA have been under way at R. I. for several years.

Dr. Davis expressed the hope that regional golf associations and greenkeepers would be interested in fostering regional programs. The Washington office would act as a clearing house and co-ordinating agency between the regional experiment stations.

## Iowa Greenkeepers' September Meeting

By H. L. LANTZ

Ia. Agr. Expt. Sta., Ames, Iowa

Members of the Iowan Greenkeepers' Association met at Ames, September 11 and 12. Following dinner a panel discussion gave the greenkeepers an opportunity to relate experiences of the past season, which all said was a tough one. Too much rain in April and May all but ruined many courses. Labor, inexperienced and none too reliable, added to the troubles, and a lack of adequate fertilizer materials had been a source of considerable difficulty. All indications point to the fact that many golf courses will have to reseed or restolonize many greens due to the failures of labor, disease control and a lack of suitable fertilizer material. To make matters worse, very few courses have maintained a bent grass nursery, many reported.

Wm. Keating, President of the Iowa Greenkeepers' Association, and greenkeeper at the Des Moines G&CC, presided and gave details of maintaining his excellent greens. In the first place, Bill emphasized that proper location, construction and drainage are essential. Maintenance procedures on Bill's course are pretty uniform from year to year. No one thing accounts for Bill's success, but a combination of correct practices has turned the trick.