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VOLUME I.

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An Editorial

By G. A. FARLEY

THERE is nothing mysterious about maintaining perfect grass on putting greens or anything else pertaining to a golf course. . . . The science of golf course construction and maintenance has been reduced to a point where any reasonably intelligent layman can pick it up readily without a great deal of study."

Here is the assertion of a Green committee chairman who is entering his second season of experience in maintaining a golf course.

Let us analyze his statements, as far as we can, one by one.

The details involved in the practice of any profession are for the most part a complete mystery to the layman. In greenkeeping there are few who will contradict the fact that experience is the most important factor in the construction and maintenance of a golf course. Theory has its recognized place, but practice makes perfection.

Take a mechanic, or a clothing salesman, or a railway mail clerk, any one of which is of average intelligence, but with no background of farm life or the handling of labor or of any standing as an executive, and place him in charge of the maintenance work on a golf course. Give him access to every printed guidance on the subject of greenkeeping to be had. Pay him a salary in accordance with the duties expected of him. Place over him a Greens chairman who will compare in knowledge and experience with any chairman of a Green

committee in the country. At the end of one year's time, what are the probable results?

If the chairman of the Green committee is a business executive, as almost all of them are, it is probable that he has spent hours of valuable time on the golf course to the detriment of his business. He is constantly harassed by complaints of the members, and many times humiliated by the appearance of the course as it cannot fail to present itself in the hands of a greenkeeper who is not worthy of the name. He is confronted with labor problems, unnecessary expense, and seemingly endless confusion. Last, but indeed not least, he is never known to enjoy an uninterrupted game of golf on his own course.

Now to the so-called greenkeeper. Granted that he is an intelligent and earnest man, he finds himself constantly referring to the printed word, putting in emergency telephone calls to the over-worked chairman of the Green committee, and for months every day ends in physical and mental exhaustion. He gains knowledge through a series of expensive mistakes, and by wearing his Green committee chairman to the bone. Adding to his salary the cost of his inexperienced efforts, the irritation to which the membership is subjected, the time lost by the chairman of the Green committee, and the greenkeeper's inevitable sense of ineffectiveness (remember he is an intelligent man) and what have you?

Any reader is cordially invited to write the answer.

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