

Rush Work In The South

By HUGH C. MOORE

SOMETIME ago I promised you a story and as I like to keep my promises, here is one.

Some ten months ago I came to St. Simons Island off Brunswick, Ga., to put a golf course in shape but on my arrival I found that it was not built. In fact, the work was "botched" up very badly. I was asked by Mr. Howard E. Coffin, president of the Sea Island Company, how long it would take me to put said course in shape so that we would be able to play golf. I told him by June 1st, if given the proper equipment and left alone to do my work as I saw fit.

By May 1st we were playing golf on the course and the greens, fairways, tees, in fact the turf as a whole was in better shape than any course in the state of Georgia. In that time I built five greens, put stolons on same; also put stolons on six fairways, remodeled twenty-six traps; re-seeded three fairways; also re-seeded four greens and tees. All my men were green at this kind of work which made it much harder but I showed them my way and insisted on them following instructions which they did, and I had wonderful success with this work.

My greens are Bermuda; fairways are Bermuda and Carpet grass, that is the best grass for the South and for my winter greens I use red top which gives me a beautiful green. I used red top in four greens last winter just for the effect and they were very beautiful. I fertilized all grass in the early spring and since then all I have done is water, roll, top dress and cut grass.

Be sure to water and top dress quite frequently. I would recommend sulphate of ammonia to be used considerably as this is a wonderful fertilizer; also keep weeds down. I used it in liquid form, sometimes as much as five barrels to a green, ten pounds to a barrel and you see the results very quickly. In this way you hardly ever burn a green.

I HAVE had a considerable lot of trouble with crab grass. To overcome this I put

one man watching the greens, cutting this grass out just as it appeared, with a bucket of soil mixed with seed. As he would make a bad place, he dropped in a little soil, put his foot on it and the sore was soon healed.

The southern greenkeeper will find that this crab grass runs from June 1st through until about September 15th. Do not let this grass spread or accumulate in your greens. If you do, it just means that you will have to plow up and re-seed your greens and the expense is much greater. This same man can also fight ants, and Porto Rico cricket moles, which are one of the southern golf courses greatest pests. For these, use carbon bisulphide through a funnel. Do not let this liquid get on the grass. The best time to get these is early in the morning before they get out. You must keep after this pest or in a few years your course is com-

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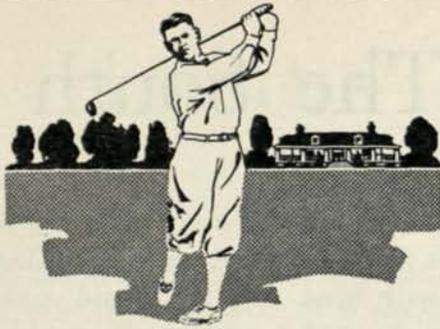
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pletely ruined. In fact, do not let these pests and your work get ahead of you.

The greenkeepers' work is getting much harder year by year and I believe part of the fault lies with the chairman of the Green committee as much as anything else. Most of the golf courses elect a chairman who knows absolutely nothing about soil, grasses, or the condition of a golf course, and yet this same man will in many cases try to instruct the greenkeeper how to maintain a perfect golf course. A good chairman, one that understands golf course work, and has the time to spend out on the course, who is broadminded; also one you can talk to, is a wonderful help to the greenkeeper.

I am a great believer in getting a good greenkeeper, putting his work before him, tell him the condition that you want the course kept in, and leave his work up to him, and in the end your course will be in much better shape. I have had bookkeepers, blacksmiths, and men of all professions, tell me how to grow grass and keep a good turf and maintain a golf course and then get angry with me because I do not do it their way.

Cheap Seed is Expensive

THE greenkeeper should be allowed to select or purchase all of his equipment; also select his seed. Clubs should not buy cheap material and cheap seed. Cheap seeds are the most expensive kind, as they usually carry abundance of weeds. Weeding greens is very expensive. If the clubs would purchase a better grade of selected seed that was tested properly, bought from reliable companies, they would not have so much weeding to do which would cut down the expense.

We are now building the second nine on our course and I hope to be playing on it by the first of next May. When this nine is completed, we will have one of the finest courses in the south bar none. This is a very beautiful island and in time will be a wonderful resort.

I am at present greenkeeper, professional, and club manager, and I am sure that I will never come in contact with any more work than I have had here, but all greenkeepers should remember that to please they should work, stay sober, and stick on the job.