

We have not done any new construction work except to complete what was started during the fall of '28. Our new greens were planted October 6, 1928 and opened for play June 6, 1929.

And fellow-greenkeepers if you ever pass through Lima, Ohio would be glad to have you come out to the club for I can talk better than I can write, this being my first attempt.

Fencing the Golf Course

By CHAS. ERICKSON

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Veteran Minnesota greenkeeper

I AM a little lax when it comes to writing letters to the National Association of Greenkeepers, but in reading the last issue of your magazine it made me embarrassed to note there was nothing from this section of the country, with the exception of an article by one of our young greenkeepers, Harold Stodola, of the Keller Club, St. Paul, Minn.

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It seems that the majority of the greenkeepers always seem so busy and have something on their minds. For my part I have not had any trouble at all. Everything has been going along nicely throughout the season. Have not been bothered with brown patch or weeds. We go over our greens every day and in that way we do not give the weeds a chance to multiply.

I have done quite a little work this season. We fenced in nearly our entire golf course, which is about 160 acres, and put up a wonderful fence with barb wire on the top, so it would be quite difficult for anyone to get in except by the gate. Have also done a lot of carpenter work. We built a house for the caretaker who is working at the club house, and of late we have put up a nice trap shooting house, besides doing some tiling which the county made us do. Taking it all in all, a person does not have to look for work on a golf course as there is always plenty to do.

Do not believe it is necessary to tell you how I do my work as all greenkeepers work under different conditions. We do not have the same soil to contend with, nor the same climate. So, I always do things in my own way and find myself coming to the front with my work. I have never been afraid of anyone looking at the beautiful Minikahda course, as it is certainly a real course.

I do not have to ask for money to go ahead with my work, or a man or two if I find I need additional help. I have a chairman who cannot be beaten in seven states. He has always told me that it is up to me (leaving all matters to my judgment) so I have always been careful not to abuse the privilege. However, I have visited at clubs where they have not had more than four or five men at the most and that certainly is not sufficient to take care of all the work connected with a golf course. I have found that they have had to be stingy about their help and finances in general, and still some of the members expect the greenkeepers to have the courses looking as good as those on which a great deal of money has been expended.

Every so often we run across one of these chairmen who will say, "I was over at such and such a course to play a game of golf and the greens were simply wonderful and the fairway was so good that you could have cut a putting green anywhere, and the bunkers were ruffled and they looked beautiful, and the long grass was cut so short that you could see the ball fifty yards away." It may be possible that the greenkeeper, of the course, that was getting "knocked" did not have sufficient help to make the course as wonderful as the one bragged about. Well, we have to stop and figure that in all probability the other fellow had all the help he needed, all the money he needed, so why shouldn't he have a perfect course. In one instance I told a man so and I only hope that he will read this article in some issue of your magazine.

How I Plan My Work

GREENKEEPING comes very easy to me, but just remember that I have been at the same club for the past twenty-nine years, besides having eleven years of practice with the

Park Board of Minneapolis, so you boys can readily see that I have been a good sticker. I have always gotten along nicely with my employers and the men working for me.

I have organized my men so that they have their definite duties to perform. Three men cut the greens every day, for about five months steady—a total of twenty-one greens. They cut the greens every day as well as Sunday, using the Ideal and Toro hand mowers. First of all they pole the greens before cutting them. After the cutting has been done the men go to the tool house. They then lift the holes on the greens and weed them and do such things as they find necessary to do during the balance of the day. If they cannot find anything to do on the greens they go into the nursery, which also requires some attention. That also has to be cut and watered.

The greens are also watered throughout the night. A man starts in sprinkling at five P. M. and continues until one A. M. He covers nine greens during the night and this is done every night, whenever it is necessary. If it is not necessary to do the sprinkling he works through the day in the compost pile.

I have one man taking care of the tees, cutting, weeding, and watering them, top dressing and putting on sod whenever it is necessary. Another man tends the bunkers, which you know is quite a job—dragging—and if this doesn't keep him busy we find something else for him to do. This man does not have a steady job on the bunkers at all times.

I have one man who cuts the fairways three times a week during the growing season and in this way it is very easy for a greenkeeper to get along, providing you have reliable men, and I certainly have been fortunate in finding them so. Some have worked for me close to twenty years. I certainly take a great pride in my crew.

Do Not Overfeed the Greens

I NOTICE that some of the boys have been troubled with brown patch. I believe this could be remedied quite a little if they did not feed them so much. I know of some instances where the greens have been overfed and that is much worse than starving them. I have found that out from experience.

About two years ago one of my men put three sacks of Milorganite in with the compost and I did not know about it. I told him not to put anything on except just to top dress, as I knew what it was made of and that it was rich enough for that season of the year. At any rate, several brown patches appeared on the greens. I scratched my head and wondered about it. This year I watched him closely and told him not to put on anything except what I told him to and the green which has brown patch is as wonderful now as the others. So from that I know that greens can be overfed as well as starved.

It really is surprising how little fertilizer I have used for all of my greens this year. I used a ton and half of Milorganite early in the spring and have fertilized them five times with ammonia sulphate, which amounts to 2200 pounds. They certainly have been in good condition at all times. Have also top dressed them three times, but of course I have real compost. I am always careful with the soil—how it is mixed—and I always keep about two or three years ahead. Turn it over and see that the weeds are kept clean of the pile, which is the main thing; otherwise, I feel it is easier to pull the weeds up on the compost pile than it is to pull them on the greens, which is a slow job.

I have seen compost piles where the weeds have been three feet high and some of them have been over an inch in diameter. Just think of the amount of moisture the weeds are taking from the pile, which should be going to the greens instead. I always use a great deal of sand in my compost.

Some Bent Is Just Junk

I HAVE noticed that the bent greens do not stand up on some of the courses like they should. My opinion is that the members of the clubs, as well as the greenkeepers, were in too much of a hurry to get this bent grass started so they could have regular putting greens. I have seen bent that I wouldn't give two cents for. There was a little of this sold for Washington bent and also for Metropolitan bent. They give it the best names, but what is it today—nothing but junk. I have noticed