



Around the Office Desk



Tournament Schedule

September

- 2-7 National Amateur, Pebble Beach, Cal.
- 9-12 Women's W. G. A., Flossmoor G. C.
- 9-13 Women's Invitation, Shawnee, Pa.
- 10-13 U. S. Seniors, Apawamis Club.
- 11-14 Canadian Seniors, Royal Ottawa G. C.
- 23-25 Westchester Co. Open, Gedney Farm G. C.
- 23-28 Canadian Ladies' Open, Hamilton.
- 27-28 Lesley Cup Matches, Toronto G. C.
- 30 Women's National, Oakland Hills, Birmingham, Mich.

October

- 17-19 Invitation Fall Tournament, Shawnee.

The Seed Situation

*Agricultural Experiment Station of Rhode Island
State College, Kingston, R. I., U. S. A.*

Mr. Robert E. Power, Editor,
The National Greenkeeper,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir: *

I see, from time to time, in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, such statements as the following:

"No figures obtainable for New England, but it is stated that the Department of Agriculture had difficulty in obtaining a few pounds" (of bent grass seed) "for experimental purposes." (Extract from information on bent grass seed production, furnished to the Tariff Commission by the U. S. D. A. Quoted in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, June 1929, page 8.)

"It" (R. I. bent) "does not grow in Rhode Island in a pure condition any more, and is not commercially cleaned or handled there." (From the article by Fred S. Radway, THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, July 1929, page 21.)

Now, as I think you know, my work at the Experiment Station of the Rhode Island State College is largely in connection with the seed production of bent grasses. This research has an economic objective, or in other words it is thought that the production of bent grass seed in Rhode Island may be increased. Provided the results of our experiments support this belief, we expect, in the course of a few years, to be able to offer some advice on the subject to the farming community, etc. I, personally, believe that the work is potentially fruitful, for the following reasons:

- (1) Every species of bent that is used on the golf

courses of this country has flourished in Rhode Island for many years. At the present time most of the fields, and practically every hedgerow and roadside in the state, are purple with the seed.

(2) The demand for R. I. bent, creeping bent, and velvet bent seed, is in excess of the amount now grown in the United States. I believe I am right in saying that the average value of bent seed imported into the country since the war has been in the neighborhood of \$3,000,000. The proposed advance in the tariff rate on imported seed from two to ten cents per pound, should help the home producers appreciably.

(3) The Oregon growers are selling an increasing amount of seed, presumably at a profit. The conditions in Oregon are not, I believe, any more favorable than are those of R. I.

(4) Mr. A. N. Peckham, of Kingston, R. I., has harvested bent grass seed in New England since 1921. There are several hundred acres in this immediate vicinity from which the seed is harvested year after year.

The majority of the local-grown seed is Rhode Island bent and creeping bent. I purchased some pure velvet bent from Mr. Peckham in 1924 in which year he had a few hundred pounds of this seed. Since then, most of the area devoted to velvet bent has become invaded by Rhode Island bent, but one field that I have seen is certainly not less than 90 per cent pure velvet bent. As Mr. Peckham's seed is sold directly to the consumer, it does not enter into the general commercial market, which perhaps accounts for the im-

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JOHN QUAILL, Secretary
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West View, Pittsburgh, Penna.

Address all communications relating to the
Golf Show at Louisville, February 5-8, 1930 to--

FRED A. BURKHARDT
Chairman, Show Committee
405 Caxton Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio