

New England Notes

BY LLEWELLYN L. DERBY

ALTHOUGH matters are in a strictly preliminary stage, golfers of Holyoke, Mass., are cheered by the news that the mayor and city engineer have been scouting around for possible sites for a municipal course. Nothing is vouchsafed as to what parts of the city were viewed lest real estate prices take a sudden upward bound.

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Numerous improvements are under way at one of Holyoke's courses, the Mt. Tom Club. Within the next few weeks it is expected that three new tees will be finished and all the other ones enlarged. The work is under the direction of Johnny Banks, the club professional. With the work on the tees completed, the greens which have been in better condition this season than for many years past, will be gone over thoroughly and put in first-class shape for next spring.

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Mt. Tom's fairways, not sharing the fate of some New England courses this summer, are nearly as green as in the spring.

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The Country Club of Pittsfield is soliciting members on a \$25,000 stock issue for improvements on its course. If 250 subscribers to stock at \$100 a share are obtained by October 1, work will be started in revamping the course at once in accordance with plans by Styles & Van Kleek of Boston.

The main object of the changes is to make the course less fatiguing. The present No. 5 hole would be eliminated under the proposed plan and a new No. 9 to end at the clubhouse would be built. No. 2 would be made into a sharp dog leg hole to the right.

If the project for changes goes through, the new layout will be ready in 1932. Samuel G. Colt is president of the club.

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Since the making of more golf clubs means more golfers and more golfers mean more courses eventually, greenkeepers far and wide will be interested in the report from the offices of the A. G. Spalding & Bros. in Chicopee, Mass., that the company has enjoyed a 10 per cent increase in production over 1929 and that advance orders for the new lines going on the market September first exceed the number of a year ago. To suit the new balls which are larger and lighter and go farther, the cushion-neck steel shaft of the new club has a deeper blade and a little less pitch than before.

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In connection with a low-priced putter the Spalding firm is putting out to compete for the Tom Thumb and miniature golf course business, William F. Reach of the company makes the prediction that 80 per cent of the persons now putting and driving on these little courses

will be playing on regular courses later. He looks on these little courses as potential agencies to inoculate a host of persons with the golf "bug."

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Far be it from the writer to differ with Mr. Reach as regards his prediction of the number of persons destined to graduate to real courses as a result of inoculation by the "miniature" microbe, but if this happens it would seem as if our "great open spaces" would be converted into golf courses. So as not to be similar to the person who did not like olives because he had never tasted them, I tried this little game a couple of times, but perhaps being different it does not appeal to me as a lasting diversion.

From the recreative standpoint it does give one something different to worry about but from the angle of affording relaxation and opportunity to straighten out legs and arms that may have been cramped up all day indoors, concentrating on poking a golf ball through a drainpipe or over a one-foot water hazard seems to me to scarcely fill the bill.

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The idea that is seeping over here from England, however, of courses perhaps half the size of the ordinary ones for people who do not have the time for a full 18-hole round appears to have merit.

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Mention was made in the June number of the opening of a course known as the Riverside Public Golf Course at Boston, a trial venture in golf by the State of Massachusetts. It is owned and maintained entirely by the Commonwealth under the supervision of the Metropolitan District Commission. Greenkeeper Harold A. Mosher contributes some interesting data regarding this layout. The total yardage for the nine holes is 3,098.

The present course was originally land used as a reservation and construction started in July, 1929. In the fall of that year the greens were seeded to Rhode Island bent and the tees to Kentucky Blue and Red Top. The catch of grass on the greens has been good and although the fairways are still a bit rough, a good nine-hole layout is in prospect.

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The Riverside course was opened last May and on the second day the full quota of three hundred memberships was subscribed. The yearly membership is very reasonable, \$20, and the daily green fee is \$1 except on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays when it is \$2. Work on the course is somewhat handicapped because of the fact that men employed for construction or maintenance are under civil service requirements, and most of them for a six months' period only.

Greenkeeper Mosher extends an invitation to fellow-craftsmen visiting Boston to look over the Riverside side and give him their verdict, whatever it may be.

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The Belmont Springs Country Club was one of those hit by an attack of sod web worm about a month or so ago. The attack hit most of the greens but was more severe on some than others, the most damage coming on a couple rather wet ones and in velvet. Greenkeeper Parker, not equipped for spraying, applied a rather heavier dose than the usual 4 pounds of arsenate of lead to 50 gallons of water, and was able to check the worms very satisfactorily.

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By the way, Parker is raising his own velvet bent seed, Kernwood strain, and so far it is a paying proposition while the present market price prevails. Germination is high and purity is excellent but some trouble is being experienced in cleaning it.

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The September meeting was held at the Stoney Brae Country Club, Wollaston, September 2, and a number of the New England greenkeepers accepted the invitation of the Rhode Island body to join them at the meeting at the Misquamicut Golf Club, Watch Hill, R. I., on September 15.

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On each hose-box at Misquamicut, Greenkeeper Jimmy Lawson has chalked down the number of square feet in that green. This sounds like a real help in applying chemicals and for other purposes.

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The championship of the Greenkeepers' Club of New England will be played at the Brae Burn Country Club at the October meeting. The four medalists for July, August, and September will engage in match play to decide the champion, 18 holes in the morning and another 18 holes in the afternoon.

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