



# GREENKEEPING— TODAY *and* TOMORROW

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ASK a group of Green committee chairmen or greenkeepers what two factors exert the most influence on the costs and results of turf maintenance, and the answers will be soils, terrain, amount of traffic, construction methods, type of equipment, drainage and other similar factors.

Neither the Green chairman nor greenkeeper will say "my greenkeeper and myself" or "my chairman and myself." Possibly it is modesty or an inferiority complex that prevents any such expression of self-importance. Then, too, there is the chance that uncertainty on their part keeps them constantly looking for an opportunity to place elsewhere the blame for failure. Whatever they think, they are the two factors that have the greatest influence on the costs and results of golf course maintenance.

These men, because of their positions, can use or abuse scientific principles; they can work with nature or against nature; in fact they can control all factors except sunshine, rainfall, darkness, light, heat and cold. By their judgment they can improve or lessen the playing standard of the course. Furthermore, they are important factors because they are human beings, and as such, are subject to human emotions.

The Green chairman thinks he is "boss" because his position ranks the greenkeeper. The greenkeeper often thinks he is "boss" because he has been on the course many years or has "a lot of practical experience." Both are sincere in their beliefs and desire to work for the best interests of the club but each feels that the other is somewhat a hindrance that is too valuable to lose, yet very annoying. The

above irritation exists in varying degrees of intensity at too great a number of golf clubs, and is probably due to the failure of the Green chairman and greenkeepers to fully appreciate and evaluate each other.

The greenkeepers should realize that chairmen are usually either active or retired successful business or professional men. The fact that they are *successful* indicates that they have the ability in their chosen fields of endeavor to organize, to direct, and to diagnose trouble. Also to cut cost of production if they are business men. These chairmen, with the exception of doctors and lawyers (they are excellent chairmen) are in the habit of working with and producing inanimate objects, and they fail to appreciate the significance of *life* in turf.

If a piece of machinery is broken or becomes badly worn in a factory, or merchandise is injured in a store, the chairman in his business, replaces *at once* or repairs the piece of machinery or damaged goods. Many chairmen have so thoroughly acquired this quick repair habit, that they do not understand why turf, which has life, cannot be made new immediately; they then become impatient. Thus the chairman's failure to fully appreciate the full significance of golf turf management affects the costs and results.

## GREENKEEPER HAS HIS PROBLEMS

GREENKEEPERS should realize that with some chairmen the golf course is a toy, and they play with it in a boyish way. If so, the boy should be considered as such, and be guided by the greenkeeper, for the greenkeeper's wages are set by the turf and not

the toy he produces. Playing with a golf course has a much greater effect upon the costs and results than playing on it.

Chairmen take pride in the detailed knowledge they have of their business and value such knowledge in others. They also practice the use of experts and trained men in their business, even going outside their staff for professional advice. Yet we find chairmen giving detailed orders to a greenkeeper, and not having detailed knowledge of turf maintenance. Such a condition greatly affects the costs and results of golf turf maintenance. The executive ability of the chairman is invaluable to the greenkeeper and to the club. To the greenkeeper it acts as a stabilizer during periods of over-enthusiasm.

Chairmen of the Green must realize that the business of golf turf management has now become a profession. When golf first started in this country greenkeepers were laborers. As the game has progressed the greenkeepers passed from laborers to skilled laborers, then to craftsmen and now have become professional.



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GREENKEEPING IS NOW A PROFESSION  
GREENKEEPERS are proving their right to a professional standing by their sectional monthly meetings for professional improvement. These meetings cover the entire United States and a considerable portion of Canada. The National Association of Greenkeepers of America with its annual convention for professional improvement is further evidence for professional recognition. The New England Greenkeepers' Association has donated a sum of money to the Massachusetts State Experiment Station to be used for research in turf culture.

Greenkeepers are also making themselves professional by attending schools for greenkeepers and purchasing books on subjects pertaining to turf culture. Such actions are bound to have an effect upon the results and costs of turf maintenance. To hold their claim for a professional rating the greenkeepers must be professional in their actions, dress and conversation.

Many greenkeepers have an inherited inferiority complex, which in the past has been very expensive to themselves and for the clubs. This is less noticeable than it was five years ago but it still is a condition which greatly affects the costs and results. Because of this complex the chairmen have naturally felt that the greenkeeper was far away from a professional standard, and considered him as he acted, as a servant.

This inferiority complex has caused the greenkeepers to be narrow in their views, undertrained in their cultural treatment of the turf, subjective to outside influences and to feel constantly on the defensive; or it has made them the exact opposite. Either condition affects the costs and results.

Chairmen and greenkeepers frequently have not had the opportunity to obtain a background that can enable them to understand or interpret scientific facts and research; or if they do understand the principle, cannot apply it to their particular problem. Lack of understanding is frequently the cause of ridiculing sound cultural principles. Certainly this condition affects the costs and results of golf turf maintenance.

MUST PAY ATTENTION TO DETAILS  
THE 1931 Green chairman should exercise his executive ability to its fullest extent, and at the same time remember that a good executive does not spend his time on details. The 1931 greenkeeper must pay attention to details, interpret and apply

scientific information, for 1931 is going to be a year in which the knowledge of the basic principles of turf culture will be of high value.

The Green chairman and greenkeeper must both understand and appreciate the ability and weaknesses of each other, and be tolerant. Where one is better suited for leadership, he should lead, but he should give way to the other when the proper occasion arises. The chairman may be the better leader through the mazes of club officialdom and club policies, but not over the green path from tee to green.

*Next Month*—Similarity between golf course maintenance and factory operation.

## Canadian News

By J. H. EVANS, *Golf Editor, Toronto Globe*

**G**OLF history insofar as the Dominion is concerned was written recently when Secretary B. L. Anderson, of the Royal Canadian Golf Association, appeared before the Ontario Greenkeepers' Association at a luncheon in Toronto, to secure the assent of the organized greenkeepers to the golf association's plan through which it will carry on demonstrations in the culture of grass, the maintenance of equipment and other work in Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal this year.

However, before Mr. Anderson secured the assent of the Ontario greenkeepers to the golf association's scheme, President W. J. Sansom let it be known that the organized greenkeepers were engaged in the study of problems twelve months in the year and that any proposal which precluded the greenkeeper from expressing an opinion would fall short of its purpose.

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"No doubt, the green section of the Royal Canadian Golf Association will accomplish a good deal," said Mr. Sansom. "At the same time, the greenkeeper feels that a green section composed of chairmen of Green committees alone will not achieve its purpose. It is obvious, it is right and it is natural that greenkeepers who are called on to maintain courses to a high standard are capable of carrying on the work proposed if properly organized.

"In no sense can we be classified as a labor organization. Greenkeeping at present is something more than manual labor," he continued. "We have the publication of our monthly magazine entirely devoted to the interests of the greenkeeper and golf course maintenance. Practical experiences are set down through articles contributed from course superintendents working under the greatest possible variety of conditions."



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