

Canadian News

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

ADDRESSING members of the Ontario Greenkeepers' association at their March meeting in the Sons of England Hall, Toronto, Greenkeeper W. Pritchard, of the Thornhill Golf and Country Club, frankly confessed that what he had learned in the 1928 Detroit convention of the National Greenkeepers' association concerning the use of arsenate of lead had saved his club a considerable sum of money and what was more that it had been invaluable to him in eradicating worms from the putting surface, approaches to the greens, and from the fairway.

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The Thornhill Golf and Country club at Thornhill, Ont., is a comparatively young organization with a substantial membership, however, which has taken a keen interest in its course. The club's hope has been that its test would compare with the better known Canadian courses. An idea of the problem confronting Greenkeeper Pritchard over the past five years in his attempt to provide the club with what it desired was contained in his own illustration when he informed his fellow greenkeepers that in 1927 that putting surface resembled onion beds with thousands of worm casts covering them.

PRITCHARD GIVES HIS EXPERIENCE

"Workmen were compelled to pole or brush each green daily for a half hour before they were able to cut them with the result that the putting surface for each day's play was muddy in appearance," said Pritchard. "At that time the club had four bent greens and their appearance was always better than the appearance of the remainder of the greens on the course. The four greens were of Arlington strain. Since that time the Thornhill club has developed other fine bent greens by the excision method and by sodding."

* * *

"In the fall of 1928 demands of members of the club who were faced with invidious comparisons daily, made it imperative that something had to be done to eradicate the worms. I had used three different kinds of eradicators during the season. They were costly, did not give the desired result and lasting effect and others were too dangerous to handle on account of the possibility of burning the greens. During the Detroit convention of the National Greenkeepers' association I naturally paid some attention to worm eradicator and decided on the use of arsenate of lead during 1929."

* * *

Pritchard stated that he had given each green on his course during 1929 three treatments of arsenate of lead at the rate of 5 pounds for each thousand square feet with satisfactory results. His method of applying it was simple. He used the 100 pound drum in which the

arsenate had been shipped, placing it in the center of the green on a wheelbarrow. He placed the required amount of arsenate in the drum, filled the drum with water and stirred it thoroughly. The solution was sprayed over the green with a home-made syphon to which had been attached a length of hose leading to the water valve and the other to the spraying nozzle. The operation required 20 minutes.

* * *

"My experience was that there was a more even distribution of the solution than by mixing with top dressing and that the expense was much lower," stated Pritchard. "By the end of 1929 I could say that the greens were under control, although I must admit approaches and fairway were bad. As a matter of fact, the job was so large that it was impossible to do more during the season than eradicate worms from the putting surface. In 1930, I extended the treatment to some of the approaches and last season to all approaches and a portion of the fairway with excellent results.

THORNHILL GREENS ARE CLEAN AND PLEASING

"The Thornhill greens have a clean and pleasing appearance. I can say that their appearance is due entirely to the use of arsenate of lead. The effect has been lasting, the cost of material has been small and the cost of labor also small, in comparison with other material which had been used. Another point that should be born in mind is that there was no damage to turf or even ill effects

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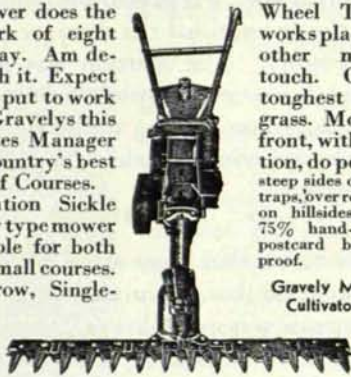
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shown after the use of arsenate of lead. The Thornhill club has topdressed its fairways extensively during the past three years.

Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

THE early spring, usually filled with construction activities, is this year extremely quiet on the coast. In most sections the weather, for once, is in the greenkeepers' favor. So far there have been neither droughts nor heavy floods.

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Play on golf courses which have maintained good playing conditions throughout the past season has been fairly heavy; not exceptional, but good when one considers how little is the total now being spent on golf when compared with other and more prosperous days. Several golf courses have changed hands owing to financial difficulties, but practically all are operating.

Although all may be quiet on the Western front, there is a prevalent feeling of tension in greenkeeping circles caused by thoughts of what the coming summer will bring forth. Another season of scald, heat, and brown patch like that of last year will be disastrous in many quarters, and a number of golf courses, precarious as their position now is, will not be able to survive.

However, last year was unusual in more ways than one. It added to the greenkeepers' total of experience so that for the most part they feel that fate has done its darndest and they found themselves able to cope with it.

Come what may, greenkeepers need no longer fear the ravages of the deadly brown patch, in the opinion of L. T. Parker of the Pasadena Country Club, for he has uncovered a positive panacea for the greatest of turf ailments. Parker states that never in his long experience has he known of an attack of brown patch to survive a fall of snow.

JOHNSON APPOINTED LOS ANGELES GREENKEEPER

After passing his civil service examination with a score of 93½, W. H. Johnson has been appointed as head greenkeeper of the two Los Angeles municipal golf courses at Griffith Park. He was formerly in charge of the Royal Palms club of San Pedro.

One of the greatest problems connected with Johnson's new position is based upon the fact that the courses in his care are built in the former path of one of Los Angeles' famous wandering rivers. Consequently while the soil is extremely gravelly providing perfect drainage, it contains practically no humus, and Johnson has to go to the nearby hills to obtain soil for new greens which he is building.

The Pacific Coast golfing world was saddened by the recent news of the death of George C. Thomas, Jr. As one of the outstanding golf architects and sportsmen of California, his passing is mourned by many.