

News From The Southland

By MERLE ZWEIFEL

AFRICAN Bermuda grass and its possibilities in the Southern states brought forth much comment from greenkeepers and Green chairmen at their meeting at the Tulsa Country Club, Tulsa, Okla., September 11. This meeting was held at the United States Golf Association Experimental Gardens, where Dr. Monteith gave an interesting lecture on grasses best suited for Oklahoma golf courses.

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It was explained by Dr. Monteith that a small handful of this grass was imported from Africa by those interested in finding a better grass for putting greens of the South, and there are now over two dozen plots of this grass at experimental stations and turf gardens throughout the Southern states. This grass has all the earmarks of becoming the standard putting green grass and it would be especially fine for fairways where there is no fairway irrigation system present.

In fact officials of one prominent Florida country club have announced plans for resodding eighteen greens with the new grass. It closely resembles creeping bent in texture and forms a much better cushion than native Bermuda grass. However, Dr. Monteith pointed out, it would not be well to invest in the African grass until other experiments now being made with it are completed.

SOUTHERN CLUBS USING BENT GRASS

ONE of the serious mistakes being made by club officials of the South today is their carelessness in selecting the proper bent grass for putting greens. Great care should be exercised in purchasing the putting green grass as the club's growth usually depends upon the success of the greens especially in the southwestern states where bent grass is rapidly taking the place of Bermuda and clover.

Many Green chairmen are under the impression that when selecting bent grass seed it is only necessary to purchase any one of the several varieties of seed now on the market. This is erroneous. Seeds purchased under the name "creeping bent" does not necessarily mean that it is suitable to any climate or area as there are several kinds of bent that are generally labelled creeping bent.

When ordering bent seed it would be well to find the grass best suited to the area and then be sure and specify that particular kind of seed in the order.

Fertilizers also came in for much discussion at this meeting and greensmen made careful note of the effects which they produced on various grasses at the Tulsa turf garden. Stress was placed on the fact that many greens are damaged as well as helped when fertilizers are poorly mixed or unevenly distributed. Dr. Monteith gave an

interesting talk on how and when to apply these grass stimulants.

Among the out-of-state visitors at the meeting was Chester Mendenhall of the Wichita Country Club, Wichita, Kansas. Mr. Mendenhall favors the organization of a Tri-State Greenkeepers' Association for greenkeepers of Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

CHARLIE HANKINS TO CONTINUE GREENKEEPING

ALTHOUGH C. W. Hankins, veteran greenkeeper of the Oklahoma City Golf Club and Country Club of Oklahoma City, has apparently found the rainbow's end in his new oil well southeast of that city he will continue greenkeeping for the O. C. Club.

Several years ago, before the discovery of oil at the capital city, Hankins purchased a small tract of land

CHARLIE HANKINS

who took charge of the Oklahoma City Golf Club in 1909. He has had charge of the maintenance there for the past 23 years.



near the southeastern edge of town. Quite recently it has proven to be in the big gusher territory and one of the wells on this tract pays Charlie around one thousand dollars every twenty-four hours it produces. Indications are that it will produce for years.

Charlie Hankins came to Oklahoma City in 1909 and began work at the Oklahoma City Club, the only golf course in the state at that time. He has had charge of maintenance there for the past twenty-three years.

LAFFERTY INVENTS NEW DEVICE

ANEW and useful device has been invented by Ernest Lafferty, greenkeeper of the Claremore Country Club, for use in preparing sand greens for play. It consists of a rubbing board, a fine-toothed wire rake, and a fibre mat all securely fastened to a long handle.

This tool rakes, levels, and mats the greens all in one operation, saving much time and labor in preparing the greens for play. The wire rake serves to loosen up the sand and prevent packing which sometimes happens when the greens are heavily oiled. This contraption is light in weight and can be easily carried from one green to another.

Kansas

MISSION HILLS Country Club, west of Kansas City and on the state line has been having a siege of grubs and webworms during the past few months but they have been checked by use of lead arsenate, according to A. W. Peters, manager of the club.

Mr. Peters applied the arsenate of lead remedy several times last season, in the powder form, about one pound to every thousand square feet, however, it was mixed with soil topdressing to insure even distribution. Mr. Peters also has charge of the Lynn Haven Golf Club at Kansas City, Mo.

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Missouri

THE Swope Park Golf Club at Swope Park, Kansas City, Missouri, where Maurice DeFever is the greenkeeper, can boast of the finest fairways in the Southwest and regardless of the scanty rainfall of last season the grass is in excellent shape.

On visiting the course one goes away with a mental picture of wide, rolling fairways, of vivid green grass and not one burnt or dried up patch to mar the beauty; even the roughs are thoroughly and completely turfed.

Last fall considerable work was done, clearing out trees and rocks, leveling up the ground and giving the fairways a smooth appearance that does not interfere with the natural beauty of the course. Greens are of Metropolitan bent and blue grass, however, Mr. DeFever plans to sow the greens to Cocoos bent this fall. He believes that by thus rotating, the grass will not be subject to diseases and it will also prevent soil packing.

BENT GRASS AND CLOVER AT BLUE HILLS

H. M. GALYON, greenkeeper of the Blue Hills Club, 61st and Pasco Boulevard, Kansas City, Mo., reports that he has been very successful with bent grass and clover as a putting surface during the last two seasons. The greens have been in excellent condition and are virtually free of brown patch. The fairways are also in good shape and are holding up through the summer dry period better than in former years.

Greens are seriously burned in spots but they are coming back slowly at the Indian Hills Country Club, Kansas City, where Henry Bell has been keeping greens for the last thirteen years. The burnt spots appear on the highest parts of the greens and they are caused mostly by lack of moisture, Mr. Bell believes. He expects to have the greens in good shape by cooler weather. Grass is of Washington and Cleveland bent.

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Mississippi

ITALIAN rye grass, sown in the fall, enables greenkeeper Frank Jones to furnish members of the Edgewater Gulf Golf Club of Edgewater Park, Mississippi, with good putting greens throughout the entire year. He sows it

over the Bermuda sod as soon as it turns brown and stringy and during the winter months this grass forms an excellent green and can be used until spring weather brings the Bermuda grass to the surface again.

Numerous other clubs along the gulf coast have been using Italian rye for their winter putting greens and have found it to be highly satisfactory.

Mr. Jones has built one of the finest groups of fairways in the gulf state and these are turfed with carpet grass. This grass thrives only in the extreme southern portions of the United States. The Edgewater Gulf Golf Club has installed Serpent fairway sprinklers but they are not used often because of the heavy rainfall in this district.

Canadian News

By J. H. EVANS, *Golf Editor*

Toronto Globe

PROFESSOR H. G. BELL, an expert on soil from the Ontario Agricultural College, frankly told greenkeepers and course superintendents of golf courses who had met at the Cedar Brook Golf and Country Club, Toronto, during September that the expert when he was called on to deal with problems relating to golf worked from the top down whilst in dealing with the farmer and his difficulties he worked from the bottom up.

Professor Bell offered what seemed obvious advice when the party of twenty greenkeepers were discussing a way of ridding their greens of ants. Secretary Bert Hawkins told Professor Bell that the greens of courses throughout the Province suffered from ants and in the more discriminating centers there were complaints from golfers.

Mr. Hawkins also pointed out that greenkeepers could eliminate the pest, but only by damaging the greens. Mr. Hawkins referred to the several methods which might be used. Professor Bell had nothing to offer, but promised the Ontario Agricultural College would undertake a study of the problem.

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The visit of officials of the Green Section of the United States Golf Association to Toronto in August and the meeting which took place at the Royal York Golf club was discussed by the gathering. The meeting at the Royal York club was attended by officials of the Royal Canadian Golf association and on account of the limited amount of time, greenkeepers and course superintendents were provided only with an opportunity to put questions.

After reviewing the results of the meeting and again discussing the result of demonstrations proceeding in the plot at the Royal York club, the greenkeepers decided to visit the demonstration plot in Buffalo during October to compare what was being done in Buffalo with what had been accomplished in Toronto.