

Arkansas Wants Bent Grass Greens

By MERLE ZWEIFEL

ARKANSAS' prima donna golf professional, architect, and greenkeeper, Mr. H. C. Hackbarth, better known in southern golf circles as "Hack," has been instructed by some of Little Rock's leading golfers to introduce into that state the well-known bent putting green grass and Mr. Hackbarth has taken the job seriously. In fact seriously enough that he has made an extensive tour of the states west and north of Arkansas, the object being to study the maintenance problems related to the bent grass. He will also take into consideration the effect which the climate along the Mississippi valley might have on the grass.

It is interesting to know that there is not one single bent grass green in the entire state of Arkansas, although Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee, almost surrounding the valley state, all have golf courses with creeping bent grass greens.

However, Arkansas can boast of some of the finest golf courses in the south. The Hot Springs resort course, a 45-hole layout, has just passed another successful season of golf, the popular Trans-Mississippi Women's tourney and the Open tournament being held there recently. And the Little Rock Country club, home of Mr. Hackbarth, certainly hasn't taken a back seat. With eighteen holes of Bermuda grass greens that club has been the scene of virtually every kind of golf championship in Arkansas.

BERMUDA FREEZES OUT

ONE of the principal objections to Bermuda grass for greens is that it is necessary to give the Bermuda a heavy coat of cotton hulls or straw in the fall of the year to keep it from freezing out and this leads to play on the temporary greens. Golf in this state is at its best in the fall and early winter, especially at the resort courses where crowds seek the warm winter sunshine of the southland.

Several of the "best minds" in Arkansas believe that the transition of putting greens from Bermuda to bent grass would entail considerable expense. The greens would have to be completely rebuilt and tiled and such a drain on the budget would not be exactly favored in these days of depression.

And there are some who believe that the humidity of the Mississippi valley would cause the dreaded

brown patch disease to spread rapidly and become uncontrollable during the warm days of June and July.

Nevertheless, Mr. Hackbarth has been assigned to the particular task of finding a bent grass that will successfully stand all requirements and he is making an intensive study of that grass.

Book Reviews

Golfer's Year Book

WE HAVE just received the Golfer's Year Book for 1933, which is published by the Golfer's Year Book Co., Inc., 6 East 46th St., New York City. It is edited by William D. Richardson, nationally-known golf writer, and Lincoln A. Werden.

This book is a work of art and not only provides an accurate record of those who play golf prominently, but those who have to do with the maintenance of the golf courses. It gives a review of the U. S. G. A. championships dating back several years, also the rules of golf put out by the United States Golf Association.

A very interesting chapter is devoted to the State Associations, with the names of the officers and the results of their various tournaments. The Golf Club Directory is an intimate analysis of the clubs in the United States and Canada, and is an invaluable aid to those who wish to contact with them.

Apparently from our observation the Golfer's Year Book is very much up-to-date and indicates a lot of work and research putting into print what those who are interested wish to know.

Names of greenkeepers and professionals are well-defined and appear to be very accurate. We have no hesitancy in recommending it to our readers and we compliment the publishers upon the production of a book of this character.

Polo

A VERY recent copy of *Polo* has come to hand and is unusual in its appearance and contents. It is published by the Polo Magazine, Inc., 180 Madison Avenue, New York City and Peter Vichier is the editor.

Those interested in turf culture understand that the upkeep of polo fields is very important in the playing of the game and that the turf problem is very vital to the players and the ponies who are engaged in this sport. There seems to be a definite urge to make the turf conditions less hazardous and we are greatly in sympathy with the idea.