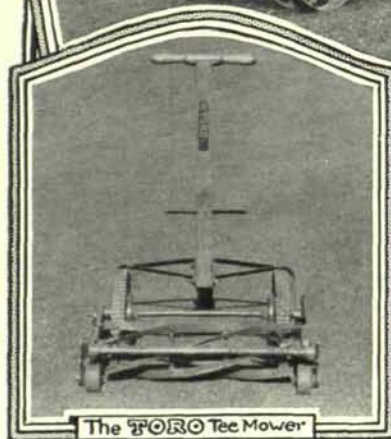


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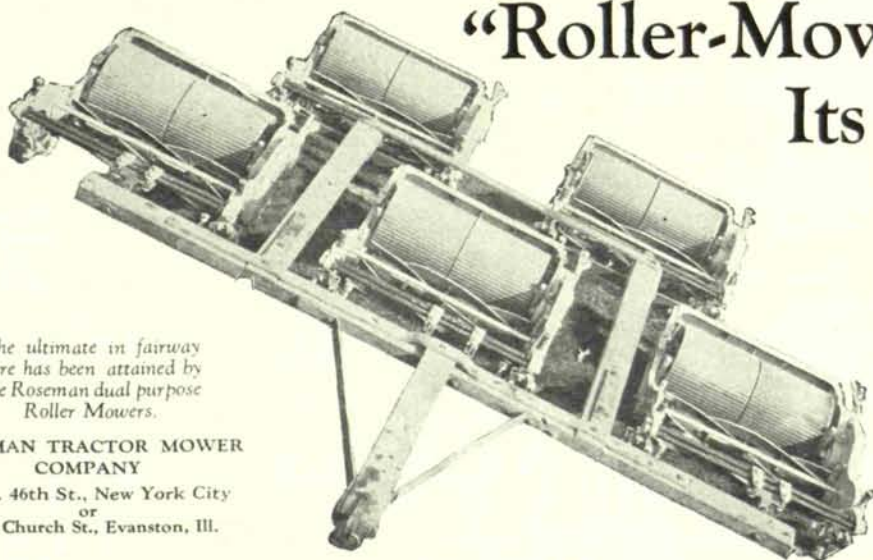
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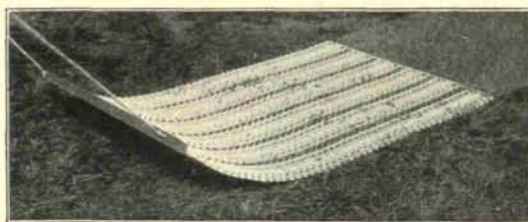
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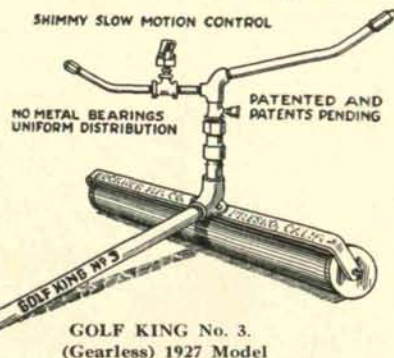
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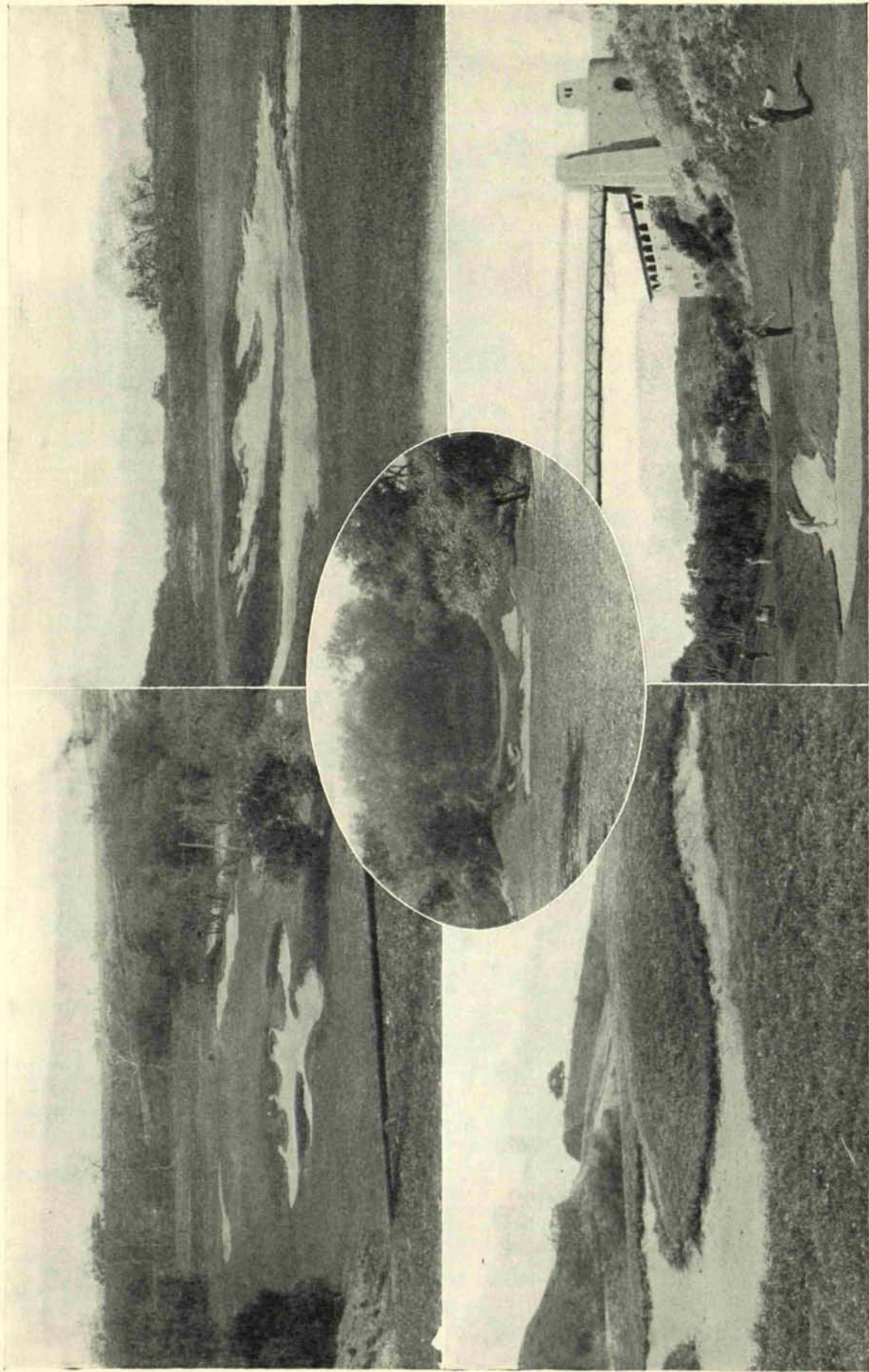
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The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

Official Organ of The National Association of Greenkeepers of America

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VOLUME I.

No. 7.

Greenkeepers Planning Golf Show

Executive Committee at Detroit Meeting Inaugurates Plan for Holding
Golf Show Next February In Detroit

ON Sunday morning, June 5, at the Book-Cadillac Hotel, Detroit, the Executive committee of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America convened for the purpose of reviewing the extent of the work accomplished since the annual meeting in Chicago on March 26, and to lay plans for the future.

One of the most important decisions made at the meeting was that the 1928 annual meeting shall be held in Detroit, Michigan, not later than March 1, 1928, exact date to be later decided upon. It was also decided that the association sponsor a Golf Show to be held not later than March 1, 1928, in conjunction with the National Association of Club Managers and the National Professional Golfers Association. John MacGregor, second vice-president of the association was appointed to present this matter to Alex Pirie, president of the National Professional Golfers Association. John Morley, president, was appointed to lay the proposed plan before Colonel Clinton G. Holden, president of the National Association of Club Managers.

Christopher Bain, member greenkeeper at Oakwood Country Club, Cleveland, was appointed assistant to Alex McPherson, treasurer, and will act

with Mrs. G. A. Farley, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, in preparing and carrying out the financial program for the balance of the year.

The splendid support of the association by greenkeepers throughout the United States and Canada was commented upon at length. It was brought out that probably many greenkeepers do not know about the association, or are waiting for an invitation to join. As a result the following resolution was adopted:

"We, the members of the Executive committee of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America, in consideration of the splendid efforts of the organizers of this movement, and with deep appreciation of the interest and support of greenkeepers throughout the United States and Canada, do hereby urge the full co-operation of every man who holds a Charter membership card in this association.

"With the knowledge of the good work already done, and with a view to the progress and well-being of each individual member and the membership as a whole, we, the 1927 Executive committee, ask every Charter member to bring into the association at least one of his neighbor greenkeepers as a regular member during the month of July."

DON'T FORGET
OUR SLOGAN FOR JULY—
"Every Member Get a Member!"

Comparative Criticism

By A. E. LUNDSTROM, Greenkeeper,
St. Charles Country Club, St. Charles, Illinois

FAIR criticism is just and constructive criticism, and invariably comes from minds that are familiar with the subject under consideration. Unfair and unjust criticism comes either through ignorance or personal motives, or both. By fair criticism I do not mean praise or flattery, but the expressed opinions of minds capable of logical reasoning, and with the knowledge and experience back of their reasoning, that is to say, minds that can and do compare conditions with conditions, and who understand their subject thoroughly.

How very often have we heard criticisms that do not contain the slightest element of justice, and simply because the critic is not at all familiar with the subject he ventures to criticise; hasty, thoughtless, if not downright ignorant; and how often in connection with the greenkeeper's work and profession. The reason is not far to seek. Few men, indeed, possess the experience and knowledge to cope with the hundred and one problems that arise, or the different conditions that must be taken into consideration in golf construction and maintenance, in order to be able to criticise fairly and justly.

If a greenkeeper is given the proper moral and financial backing and he fails to produce results, then he is at fault and should be severely criticised; but how many of our clubs do really give their greenkeepers such moral and financial support, even if they have the right kind of a man?

Unsound Basis of Comparison

How often have we heard club members comparing their own course to some other course, and the other course is praised to the skies? Perhaps they never for a moment stop to consider that "the other" club has spent two or three times the amount of money for upkeep; that the other club has more suitable soil conditions; that the other club has spent thousands of dollars more for drainage and water system, plus sand, soil and fertilizers, and has every modern piece of machinery with which to do the work properly, whereas their own unfortunate club is minus on most of these items. And yet they will compare the two clubs as the judges do the pigs at the stock show, and invariably the poor greenkeeper "gets his." What's the answer?

Theory Manages Many Clubs

One doesn't expect a cobbler to be a good horseshoer simply because he handles shoes, nor should one expect the doctor, the dentist, the lawyer and the groceryman to

know very much about golf work, or the amount of labor a man can do; still it is men of this class who more often than not control the destinies of the average golf club, dictate its policies, and decide on every vital question, even as to how work should be done, and very seldom with anything but mere theories to base their opinions on. Lucky is the greenkeeper who has a Green committee that really knows what the work is, and understands the business thoroughly.

Young Golf Clubs Suffer "Growing Pains"

During the time that the average club passes through the usual experimental stage, which often runs into years, the destinies and policies of that club are usually in the hands of men who have not the slightest idea of what the future holds in store, elected to their offices on account of being successful in their particular line, but with no training or knowledge whatever in golf construction or club management. Outside of golf where could be found a group or association of shrewd business men who would entrust two or three hundred thousand dollars worth of property, and often more, to a small committee of inexperienced men?

The average new club starts off with a bang, and spends money more than lavishly. They must have a club house immediately, one that outshines anything for miles around, even if notes must be given for its fancy trimmings. But notes have an unhappy way of falling due in time, and if the membership campaign hasn't been a howling success, then the question arises: "What are we to do?"

Radical Cuts in Course Maintenance

The doctor, the dentist, the lawyer and the groceryman put their wise heads together, and with great business acumen decide to trim the "over-head" expenses, as all good efficiency experts do, and the greenkeeper and the workmen are the first, and generally the only ones, to suffer. It is out of the question to stint on the club house expenditures, even though there is a monthly deficit there, for "what would the ladies say if we didn't maintain the social standard and pace previously set?"

Men are laid off from the comparatively small force, and necessary improvements stop. The previously well groomed course begins to look ragged, and even the grass loses its deep, fine color; weeds creep in; sand traps are untouched; and top-dressing comes only at ir-

(Continued on page 30)

Is Poa Annua Good or Bad?

By JOHN MORLEY, President
The National Association of Greenkeepers of America



John Morley

POA ANNUA (Annual Meadow Grass) is usually looked upon as an exceedingly troublesome weed, and is noticeable as being the plant which infests our garden paths, and appears capable of growing everywhere and under almost all conditions. It is constantly the subject of somewhat heated conversation and correspondence, many claiming that its appearance year after year proves it to be a perennial and not an annual. It is quite correctly named, however, the explanation being that the plant is continually re-seeding itself from April to October.

To this fact is also due its amazing power of spreading in every direction, the seed being constantly blown about by the wind. The plant produces seed in a shorter time than any other species of grass, and it even flowers when owing to the sterility of the soil it cannot attain to more than one or two inches in height. Poa annua owing to its power of resisting drought, is of considerable value in hot and dry climates. An effectual method of checking it is an application of common salt once or twice a year.

Poa annua is recognized by its light green color, its soft texture, the tendency of the leaves to curl towards the middle or center, and they often crumple near the base.

Shall We Grow It or Kill It Out?

At the present time there is a good deal of discussion among officials of golf courses and greenkeepers as to the merits or demerits of poa annua. But very little information has been obtained from any of our leading agronomists upon this particular grass. During the past two seasons I have received a number of inquiries as to how to get it to grow into the putting greens, and where can poa annua seeds be obtained. Others have written asking advice how to get rid of it. But I must confess that there is not much information to be obtained relative to the eradication of poa annua, and what little knowledge we have possessed has been through practical observations.

While it is true that poa annua is classed with the poa grasses, yet we can call it a troublesome weed. However, if properly treated and its environments carefully studied it will produce the finest turf for putting greens, but it is very treacherous and should be handled only by experienced greenkeepers.

Poa Annua and Bent Combined

Poa annua often produces good results the entire season providing the putting greens have a large percent of the various bent grasses produced from seeds, for the reason that when the poa annua has spent its force as the leading grass in a putting green, which often occurs in July and August, the bent grasses which appear to thrive in extreme hot weather take the place of the poa annua. The most critical period of this grass is when it is arrived at a dormant stage. If we can create conditions at this period to allow the change to become slow and to allow the bents to gradually take the place of the poa annua very little trouble if any will occur. But I have observed that a heavy application of sulphate of ammonia or any fertilizers rich in nitrogen has a tendency, especially about the middle of summer, to eliminate the poa annua before the bent grasses take its place, which often leaves the putting greens in a deplorable condition.

Air Circulation Most Important

During the change I am of the opinion that the three principal facts to be borne in mind during the hot summer weather as it pertains to poa annua are not chiefly fertilization, but moisture, temperature and air. To illustrate this we are informed that when any plant seeds or flowers it is an indication that it has received sufficient food. So by observing the seeds of the poa annua we are in a position to judge the condition of the plant. If the blades, stems and seeds are in a good healthy condition it shows that the various foods, moisture, temperature and air are well balanced.

If on the other hand the general appearance is sickly then something must be done to correct the conditions that exist where poa annua predominates, or in other words if the putting greens contain more than 60 per cent of poa annua. I am of the opinion, especially during extreme hot weather, that air in the soil is more important than water. For if deprived of water in hot weather for a long period the roots of old grass will frequently survive, although the leaves and stems in a drought may turn completely brown, while if deprived of air and completely immersed in water in hot weather they will die in a few days. Especially with an abundance of poa annua, its packed and matted roots often

prevent the air from freely entering and leaving the soil.

I am of the opinion that the putting greens that are mostly poa annua would be helped to some extent by using a spiked roller which would have a tendency to give the roots of the plants more air. In fact I have found it very beneficial to our putting greens where poa annua is the dominant grass. There are a number of complaints with poa annua relative to making the surface of the putting greens bumpy, especially while it is seeding heavily.

To a certain extent this can be prevented by clipping the grasses real short. We used to take off the rollers from the putting green mowers, and with the aid of two men every once in a while shave the surface of the putting greens. But with the advent of better putting green mowers this method is not essential.

Poa Annua Thrives on Rich Compost

The question is often asked—"Why is it that we get more poa annua on one green than we get on another, both of them situated close together upon our course?" We find that some of these putting greens contain about ten per cent of poa annua while others contain forty per cent, and we have one with over eighty per cent. We give all of the putting greens the same care and treatments. Now the chief reason that I may give is simply if the various bent grasses predominate in a putting green they will eventually drive out the poa annua, but on the other hand if poa annua is the leading grass it will crowd out the bents. If we could maintain conditions suitable for good putting on the greens by using nitrogen fertilizer so that the gases from them would remain close to the surface, and eliminate top dressing for a while which contains a large amount of nourishment, we would to a certain extent help to starve out some of the poa annua. For I am of the opinion that when the humus that the compost contains is washed down into the soil it is feeding the roots of the poa annua which usually are two inches deep in the soil, and very little is feeding the roots of the bents which remain close to the surface. This is one of the chief reasons that in a reasonable time so many greenkeepers have observed the rapid increase of poa annua after continual top dressing with rich compost.

We find that poa annua is a difficult grass to keep during the winter months for the reason should the surface of the putting greens be covered any length of time with ice, most of the blades of grass disappear and in the spring this leaves the putting greens in a bad condition. I have to a certain extent benefited poa annua greens by placing on them in the late fall a dressing of coarse tobacco stems and removing them in the spring when the danger of heavy freezing weather seems to be over.

Eradicate on First Appearance

To attempt to eradicate poa annua by digging it out of well established putting greens would require a large outlay of money and time. And the only thing left for a greenkeeper to do is to know how to keep it in a healthy condition. I have observed that poa annua is one of the first grasses to catch the brown-patch disease.

I find that there is a great tendency by some greenkeepers to encourage poa annua on new vegetative putting greens, but I am of the opinion that they are making a mistake. In my observations I would suggest that as soon as it appears upon the putting greens to eliminate it. Don't give it a chance to get a start for if you do it will not take long before it crowds out the grasses made from creeping bent stolons.

Poa Annua Often Spread by Players

Where poa annua is well established on a golf course I find that it produces one of the finest turfs for tees. For instance upon our No. 1 and 10 tees there has been no necessity to use any grass seed of any kind in the past ten years, nor have we been compelled to re-sod any part of them. All we need to do is to fill the divot holes with compost and they heal themselves. But do not let this encourage you if you have no poa annua on your course for in importing it for your tees it would soon reach your putting greens either by winds or by the players carrying it on their shoes when wet.

Don't Plant Poa Annua Purposely

By all means if you are not well versed with the culture of poa annua *leave it alone*. Seldom a day passes that I am not asked how I cultivated our No. 17 putting green which is chiefly poa annua and which is admired by all who have played upon it. Against my advice I have seen chairmen of Green committees take home to their respective courses clippings containing the seeds from this putting green. A short time ago my attention was called to the fact that one of our leading seed merchants was drying seeds from poa annua clippings, because there had been a number of orders asking for this seed. This dealer has at the present time a reputation for handling the best grass seeds that can be obtained. If he deals in poa annua I am inclined to believe he will lose some of it.

The Story of Youngstown Number 17

Again the question is asked where did I get the poa annua seed for No. 17 putting green, and why did I plant this kind of seed especially when I warn others not to use it as I considered it dangerous to do so.

Here is my answer—several years ago this putting green, like a few more on our course, was always acting poorly. So one fall we decided to rip the putting green with sharp steel tooth garden rakes, and broadcast over

(Continued on page 28)

The War Against Ants

By CHARLES L. REAM

Greenkeeper, Tuckaway Country Club, Milwaukee, Wis.

HAVING been asked to write an article for the magazine and as most of the boys have written about grasses, construction, methods of upkeep, etc., I think it might be well to start something about the many pests and annoyances a greenkeeper has to contend with.

While at the Chicago meeting and looking over the golf show with my friend, Alex McPherson of Detroit, he asked me if I had found anything for ants. Of course I answered I was using carbon disulphide when any bothered my greens. He said, "Yes, but we don't get the grubs," and I agree with him.

Anyone who finds a remedy to get the grubs as well as the ants has a fortune made.

Common Varieties of Ants

To the average man ants are just ants, so perhaps it may be of interest to discuss a few types of ants and their habits. The ones most commonly found on greens throughout the United States are the common little brown ants. They are usually about 3/16 of an inch in length. Then we have the small red ant and the larger type black ant. There are several other varieties, but these and the agricultural ants of Texas, and the southwest will suffice. They belong to the same family as the red ants and are found in Florida, and other parts of the southern United States. Let us note briefly their general habits.

Queen Ant Lays 80,000 Eggs Every Day

Take for instance a colony of ants which is founded by a King and Queen—a very fruitful pair. The Queen when established in her home produces nearly 80,000 eggs in each 24 hours. So it behooves the greenkeeper in getting rid of ants to be sure to get this lady or his work is for nothing.

In cold weather ants (adult) hibernate in a dormant state. In the spring when it begins to get warm they swarm, fly about, mate and start new colonies. As soon



Charles L. Ream

as a new colony is started the Queen produces her eggs. It takes about a month to hatch after the eggs are laid, and grubs are then produced. In two weeks they are full grown. They spin a cocoon in which to change, or change directly without such covering. No doubt you have seen ants carrying white objects around an ant hill. These are the eggs. In summer they are found in any ant colony. The adult hatches from these eggs and immediately takes part in the work of the colony.

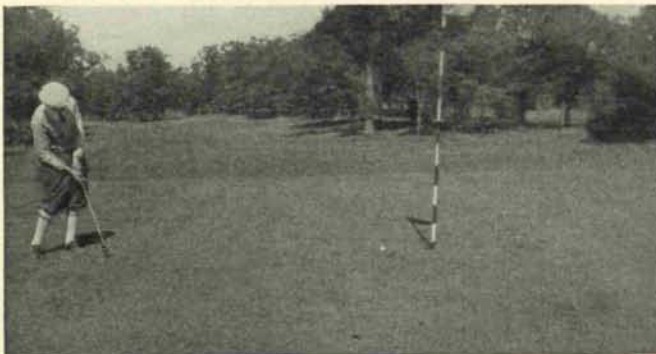
Borax and Sugar Not Effective

The food of the ant is both animal and vegetable. They all like sweets, sugar for instance—some species even gather honey. So what would be more natural than to get these pests by sweets? In bygone days many of the boys tried to exterminate them with a mixture of borax and sugar, but very often the results were not as expected. The ants seemed to thrive. The sugar would attract them and they seemingly got fat from the borax. So this method of extermination did not last long with the greenkeepers. Many other remedies have been tried with varying success.

Carbon Disulphide Does the Work

The one which has proven the best, I find is the carbon disulphide solution. In using this I use 2 to 3 ounces to a gallon of water, and mix thoroughly. I put a little of this solution in the opening, close the hole and press it down. This usually gets them. I have also gotten them by taking a small desk sponge, put a little molasses on it, set it on the ant hill and when full drop it in a pail of hot water. Neither of these methods gets the grubs or nits, and usually have to be repeated during the season.

Now let us hear from some of the other members regarding the different pests they have to contend with and the remedies they use for extermination. No doubt any articles written on this subject will be of interest to the readers.



Thirteenth Green at Tuckaway

Look Before You Seed!

By NORMAN L. MATTICE, Greenkeeper
Pine Valley Golf Club, Clementon, New Jersey

ALTHOUGH the cost of grass seed on a well maintained golf course is a comparatively small item, it is an extremely important one when thoroughly analyzed and considered from every angle.

Long before the seed bed has been thoroughly prepared, the wise chairman of the Green committee and the greenkeeper, unless either or both are qualified to select and purchase the right varieties and quality of seed, should get expert advice from the Green Section of the U. S. G. A., or from some one who has had broad training in the subject of fancy grasses and is well recommended.

Fairway Mixture

As a rule, most fairways in the northern half of the United States and part of Canada should be seeded with a mixture of New Zealand Chewings fescue, Kentucky blue grass and red top, with a small percentage of South German mixed bent thrown in. The percentage of each variety and the amount of seed per acre will, of course, depend on soil conditions. Unless these varieties are purchased with a guarantee as to germination and purity accompanying each lot or variety, many unforeseen difficulties may arise which will not only be costly to the club, but will spell failure for those responsible to the management of the club.

Deterioration of Chewings Fescue in Shipment

New Zealand Chewings fescue (*festuca duriuscula* or *festuca ovina*) is nothing but hard or sheeps fescue imported from the British Isles into New Zealand and acclimated to that Island. In England, it grows in bunches and is a coarse, tough, hardy grass. Owing to its bunchy nature, weeds grow together with the grass, and when it is harvested for seed, many noxious weeds are naturally found in the seed. In New Zealand, it changes its habits and becomes a finer, more delicate grass of a stoloniferous nature, which forms a thick turf that crowds out the weeds and the seed is practically free from weed seed and usually high in purity. Unless this seed is selected and sown in the latter part of August or early in September, there is little use in attempting to use it in a fairway mixture.

As a rule, New Zealand Chewings fescue shows a high percentage of germination when it arrives in America, but it will not retain its viable strength through the winter months. That is, if it shows a germi-

ination of 90% in July or August, it will probably not germinate more than 40% the following April, and more often it will not germinate at all. The seed seems to be affected by the salt air in transit from New Zealand. If a seed house advertises New Zealand Chewings fescue with 90% germination in March or April, they are doing one of two things. They are either selling on the germination test made on arrival in America in July or August of the preceding year, or else they are selling a substitute of hard or sheeps fescue under the name of New Zealand Chewings fescue. In the first instance, the turf will be thin and uneven unless many times the right amount of seed is sown, which adds greatly to the cost. If, on the other hand, sheeps or hard fescue is sown, the fairway will never be smooth or easy to cut and weeds will become very troublesome and unsightly.

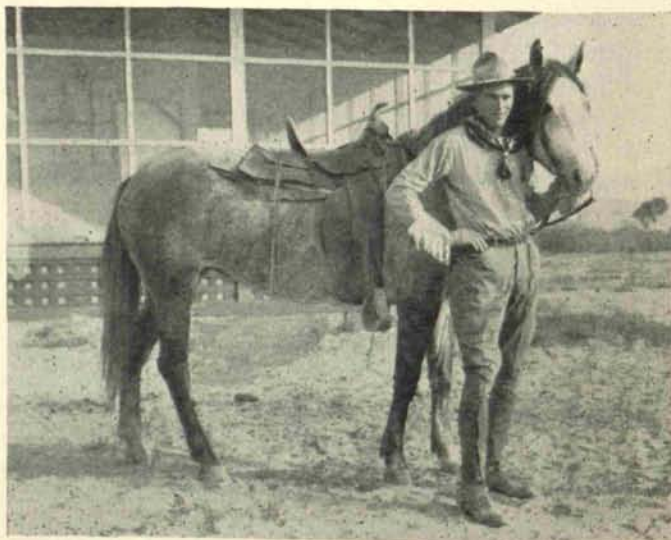
EDITOR'S NOTE

Mr. Mattice, before taking up greenkeeping, was a trained seed analyst of several years' experience. Pine Valley, his present club, is one of the most famous of the golf courses in the Eastern States.

Kentucky and Canada Blue Grass

Kentucky blue grass is grown in Kentucky or Missouri (mostly in Kentucky), and if a high purity percentage is demanded,—say purity 90% and germination 85%—there is little danger of going wrong. Kentucky Blue Grass has occasionally been adulterated with Canada blue grass, the seed of which is very similar

(Continued on page 23)



Norman L. Mattice, in the Western manner. Former stockman, soldier and seed analyst, he is now on a round-up of the greens at Pine Valley