

PITCH AND PUTT GOLF • COURSES

— BY —
P E T E R H E N D E R S O N

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With the proper equipment top dressing is not a laborious job.

A WORD OF CAUTION ON FERTILIZING

A WORD of caution might be suggested here about over-fertilization of turf. There is sometimes a temptation to hasten the maturing of grass through stimulation. In many cases this forced feeding is excessive. A child cannot take an adult's dose of medicine and young grass cannot stand the same amount of fertilizing as mature grass. If the seed bed has been properly constructed and the soil contains sufficient organic matter, it is wise to avoid forced stimulation of growth. Over-stimulated turf in the spring usually is not able to stand the summer heat satisfactorily. Quick growth of grass is not so desirable as slower growth which will be more permanent.

Commercial or inorganic fertilizer should be used very sparingly the first year. A small amount of it should be mixed with the compost if necessary. Such fertilizer is a medicine and its function is to tone up the vitality of the turf. Young grass does not need a tonic. It is more likely to need more humus and plant food which may be supplied best by compost or organic fertilizers.

THE PROBLEM OF WEEDING

THE problem of weeding is one which should engage the attention of the greenkeeper very early in the spring. No doubt it will because it cannot be avoided. The earlier the weeding is commenced, the sooner the weeds can be checked. If the weeding is neglected, there is a possibility that the weeds may crowd out the grass.

So far the only practical method of weeding is by manual labor. Certain fertilizers which stimulate grass growth encourage the turf to crowd out the weeds. However, the use of such fertilizers should be avoided the first season. Instead the course should be thoroughly hand-weeded the first spring. Stolons do not as a rule require as much weeding surface of the stolon green usually is quite satisfactory.

Sprinkling the new course requires both discretion and judgment. Thorough familiarity with the characteristics of new grass growth is very desirable. Grass may be over-watered as well as under-watered. It is very important that the right amount of water be applied at a time. Equally important sometimes is the time of watering.

The best time to sprinkle is at night or in the cool of the evening after the sun has gone down and play has ceased. There is no loss of water from evaporation then and both the blades of grass and the roots are able to obtain their proper share of moisture. Also, the sprinkling can be done more systematically and more comprehensively when there are no players on the course.

CUTTING YOUNG GRASS REQUIRES CARE

CUTTING young grass also requires considerable care and judgment. The mowing equipment should be adjusted so as to avoid injury to the tender shoots. The grass should never be cropped off closely but should be allowed to grow at least half an inch higher on the fairways than will be permitted the second season.

Crowning the grass often prevents the runners from spreading and handicaps grass growth. By permitting the grass to grow higher than usual during the first year it is able to shade itself during hot weather and establish a deep root system.

Turf diseases are very likely to make their appearance during the first year the course is open unless the grass is carefully watched. Young grass is especially susceptible to fungi growths which are usually very hard to eradicate once they have made their appearance. To give the grass more resisting power it is often wise to use a preventative against such diseases during the first six months of the year.

Applying a portion of lime into each compost application is very helpful. From observation it is evident that extreme acidity of soil is not encouraging to new grass growth especially. Both extreme acidity and alkalinity of soil should be avoided. Remember also that any change in the condition of the soil, which is favorable to grass growth, may also favor the growth of weeds and turf diseases.

WATCH THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM

THE drainage of the new course should be given early consideration. The club, which has an adequate drainage system installed when the course is constructed, is indeed wise. However, it is one of the responsibilities of the greenkeeper to see that the drainage system functions properly. The final test of a drainage system is the manner in which it performs its work. Drained land is warm in winter and cool in summer and grass has every advantage.

Trees, shrubbery and flower beds upon the property require a greater amount of care during the

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early stages of the course. These aids to beautification represent an investment which increases in value as time passes. They should not be neglected for to do so will incur additional expense later and interfere with the development of the course. Trees especially are well worthy of attention. In its natural setting there is nothing so beautiful as a tree. What can add more to the attractiveness of a golf course site than beautiful trees?

No definite rules can be laid down regarding the conditioning of all new courses. Much depends upon soil characteristics and climatic conditions. The individual nature of each separate piece of property cannot be ignored. However, there is one general rule: A new course requires considerable more attention than a mature course. Knowledge is not only required of what to do but of when to do it.

The beauty of the golf course is in the hands of the greenkeeper who may retain or mar it. The greenkeeper responsible for the appearance of a golf course has no small obligation toward a club. The best designed golf course soon deteriorates if not properly maintained. A qualified greenkeeper, trained by experience, will be able to bring the vision of the architect to full development. Uniform putting surfaces, well-groomed fairways, properly sanded traps, inviting tees, beautiful landscaping and intriguing holes—these are some of the factors of golf course perfection.

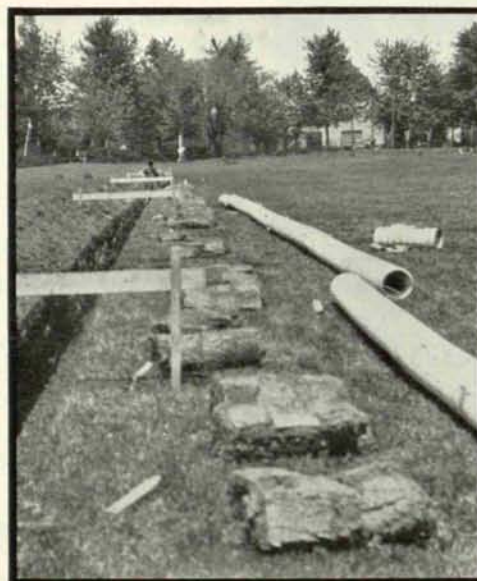
JOHN MORLEY ILL

As we go to press word comes to us of the sudden illness of Colonel John Morley. He was taken to a Youngstown hospital for observation, and because of his weakened condition was given a blood transfusion. We voice the wishes of all of our readers for his speedy recovery.

"HEADQUARTERS FACTS" on

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To learn of the application of Armco Perforated Iron Pipe to the needs of golf courses, architects, engineers, committee members, greenkeepers and professionals are invited to send for data on modern drainage. No obligation. Also, the services of nearby Armco engineers are available. Write.

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Morley Announces Speakers' Program for

By COLONEL JOHN
The National Association of



JOS. WILLIAMSON, Chairman
Entertainment Committee,
Greenkeepers' Convention

HAVING arrived at the conclusion that the success of the Golf Show for 1931 is now assured, our efforts are now devoted to securing suitable speakers for the Conferences. It is a little premature to outline what we have in store for you at the Conferences, but I will state that the most comprehensive program ever attempted in the

history of golf in America is scheduled for the National Greenkeepers' Convention in Columbus.

The list of papers to be read and discussed will

cover every phase of golf course maintenance and experts from every part of the United States and Canada will present them. Any progressive greenkeeper or Green committee chairman who fails to be at Columbus for the three days of this intensive study of golf course problems will be missing a lot.

Here is a partial list of speakers and their subjects:

GOLF COURSE BOOKKEEPING—By E. W. Doty, Treasurer Cleveland District Golf Association, Cleveland, Ohio.

IRRIGATION—By Joe P. Mayo, Greenkeeper, Pebble Beach Golf Club, Del Monte, California.

GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION FROM THE GREENKEEPERS' ANGLE—By Alfred E. Lundstrom, Superintendent, Crescent Athletic Club, Huntington, L. I.

DRAINAGE—By Edward B. Dearie, Jr., Greenkeeper and Golf Course Architect, Chicago, Ill.

GROWTH OF GRASS PLANT—By Dr. Howard P. Sprague, New Jersey Agricultural College, New Brunswick, N. J.

GENERAL GREENKEEPING—By Joseph Williamson, Greenkeeper, Scioto Country Club, Columbus, Ohio.

COOPERATION—By Ganson Depew, Vice-chairman, United States Golf Association, Green Section.

CARE OF TREES—By Hon. Martin A. Davey, President, Davey Tree Expert Co., Kent, Ohio.

GROWING OF GRASS SEEDS IN AMERICA—By Dr. T. E. Odland, Agronomist, Agricultural Experiment Station, Kingston, Rhode Island.

We intend to follow the same plan as last year—that is holding only one session each day of the Golf Show, but we are pleased to announce that the arrangements will be much improved and everyone will hear the speakers better than last year. At the close of each session we will have a Question

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Old Demon Drought was licked to a frazzle during the past summer wherever Buckner Sprinklers were installed. Tees, greens and fairways were kept gloriously green and club members waxed enthusiastic over constantly perfect playing conditions.

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or Columbus Greenkeepers' Convention

MORLEY, *President*

f Greenkeepers of America

and Answer discussion and I am happy to announce that our friend, Professor L. S. Dickinson has consented to take charge of this Forum.

The banquet which will be held during the Golf Show, Conferences and Convention will be the finest ever held and we are pleased to state that this banquet will be under the supervision of the Central Ohio District Golf Association. Joseph Williamson is chairman of the banquet committee.

This banquet for the first time in the history of golf will bring together the four units that are necessary to the general welfare of a golf club, namely, chairmen of Green committees, professionals, club managers and greenkeepers. Mr. C. F. Young, chairman of the Green Section of the Central Ohio District Golf Association, will preside as toastmaster. Mr. Young is Green committee chairman of the Miami Country Club, Dayton, Ohio.

JUST OUT— The Lawn

BY LAWRENCE S. DICKINSON

Ass't. Professor of Horticulture
Massachusetts Agricultural College

Defines and describes the Culture of Turf in Park, Golfing and Home areas.

CONTENTS

The General View	Controlling Pests
Molding the Lawn	General Maintenance
Preparation of the Seed Bed	Lawn Mowers
Seed Selection and Planting	Park Turf
Important Turf Plants	Cemetery Turf
Planting a lawn with Stolons	Useful Tables
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GOLF NEWS

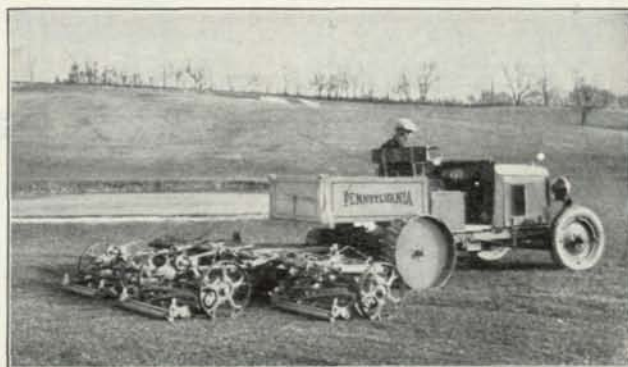
SYRACUSE, N. Y.

Development of two new golf courses in the Greater Syracuse district is contemplated by private interests. One of the new golf links is planned in the vicinity of Camillus and the other near Tully. Engineers have completed a survey of the Tully site and tentative plans of the proposed layout are now being completed by a designing engineer, it is reported. The Camillus course is planned on the main highway near the village. The Tully course will be an 18-hole affair, but plans on the Camillus layout have not progressed to the point where a definite decision as to the number of holes has been reached. It will probably open as a nine-hole course.

* * *

PEKIN, ILL.

The cry of "Fore" will sound next summer over the eighty-acre Soldwedel farm which for a century past has heard only the shouts of "Geel!" and "Haw!" A beautiful new nine-hole course is under construction on the historic property and the work is in charge of Charles E. Maddox, the well-known golf architect. The Pekin Park Board is financing the work.



The "New" Fairway Quint being pulled by the 6-cylinder PENNSYLVANIA Tractor

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Mid-West Greenkeepers' Page

BY A. L. BRANDON, *Secretary*

RECENT rumors have reached us that our friend C. M. Harrison of this district's Green Section is planning to get married. Allow us to extend our congratulations together with those of other Mid-west greenkeepers.

* * *

Midwest members don't forget that your Green chairman is always welcome at our Midwest meetings. As October ends the fiscal year for many clubs, which means club election, new budgets, etc., and not to forget many new Green chairmen taking office, and the probability of some not any too well acquainted with their new jobs but very interested in making 1931 the best season their club has had. So the next time you see him speak to him about it.

* * *

Apropos the gentleman who wildly dashes into the locker room shouting that all his clubs are working to perfection—the hooker, the slicer, and the misser—to be downright ornery we could mention a few Midwest members whom have had similar experiences.

Quite a discussion was had on grubs at the October meeting, it seems almost everyone had experiences to tell, with most of them occurring this past season.

* * *

Plans are being made to hold an open meeting in the near future for all greenkeepers and turf enthusiasts, to be sponsored by the Midwest Greenkeepers organization. It is planned to have prominent speakers on turf problems and turf maintenance, etc., anyway it will be an evening well spent for those who plan to attend. Dates for this meeting will be announced later.

* * *

The late fall rains have as yet failed to materialize, deficiency since January 1st being 7.79 inches.

Lately we have been wondering if there may be any relation with brown patch and this late discovery concerning black stem wheat rust, which has puzzled pathologists for a generation. Miss Hart found that in the majority of the strains of wheat in the experimental planting that the stomata (myriads of small opening on the underside of the leaf through which the plant breathes, it is also from the air that the plant gets most of its dry weight) opened within a half hour after the first rays of the morning sun.

Some strains opened within five minutes, still others kept their leaf apertures tightly shut until they had been exposed one and one-half hours to sunshine. These latter strains under field conditions, did not very often suffer much damage.

In other words these wheats had escaped by the simple process of keeping their stomata closed until the morning sun had dried the dew and destroyed the growth of the spores which had germinated in this moisture the night before. Those strains of wheat which opened their apertures before the dew had dried and therefore permitted the rust spore to enter were infected.

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Special Grinding Wheel Attachment for sharpening grass shears, sickles, scythes, axes, etc. Skate Sharpener attachment sharpens all makes of skates—including hockey. Earns money all the year 'round. Will save its cost the first season.



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* * *

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* * *

Columbus is quite a railroad center and also a terminal for the new transcontinental air lines. Port Columbus is one of the biggest and best airports in the country.

* * *

Several new exhibitors will be with us this year. Practically all of the old ones will also be there to show the new goods and improvements.

* * *

It was with deep regret that we heard of the death of one of our charter members. On September 27, 1930, Brother Alex Ross of Excelsior Springs, Missouri passed to the Great Beyond. The association offers its sympathy to the family of the deceased.

* * *

Members of the Death Benefit Fund are requested to make payment of their assessment as soon as possible to replenish this fund.

* * *

If you have not paid your 1930 dues, you are liable to suspension. We do not want to suspend any one, so pay up and save us the trouble and yourself the embarrassment.

* * *

John Pressler, the veteran greenkeeper of the Allegheny Country Club, Sewickly, Pa. was seriously hurt when he was hit by an automobile on November 8.

* * *

The latest report was that John was getting along

but very slowly. The association wishes Mr. Pressler a speedy recovery.

* * *

Once more, lest we forget, ship ahoy for Columbus.

Connecticut Greenskeepers Meet

By J. W. WHITEHEAD, President

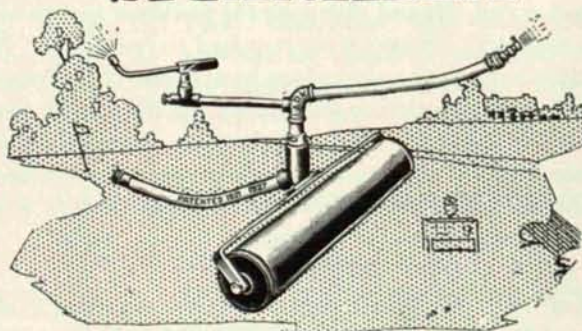
THE CONNECTICUT STATE GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 3rd. This meeting was held at the Farmington Country Club, Farmington, Conn., and was followed by a golf tournament.

Prizes awarded the winners in the tournament were donated by Goulard & Olena, Inc., manufacturers of the J. B. Green Fertilizer, and Rackliffe Brothers, Inc., distributors of the "Pennsylvania" high-grade line of golf mowers.

Mr. John Nyhan, "Pennsylvania" representative from Boston, as one of the speakers, gave a very practical talk on fairway and putting green mowers. He was followed by Mr. Goulard of Goulard & Olena. Mr. Goulard gave a very interesting and instructive talk on fertilizers.

Many interesting phases in greenkeeping were brought up for discussion and a most enjoyable time had by all present.

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Canadian News

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

JOSEPH STANSFIELD, course superintendent at the Mississauga Golf and Country Club, Toronto, has drawn an assignment of considerable proportions for 1931. It's a job that few greenkeepers envy and was provided for him when the Royal Canadian Golf association selected Stansfield's course as the scene of the next Canadian open golf championship in preference to Lakeview, Toronto, and several other popular courses in Ontario.

* * *

Stansfield's job is of magnitude on account of the peculiar location of the Mississauga course. To quote W. J. Sansom, president of the Ontario Greenkeepers' association, no course in eastern Canada presents as many problems as Mississauga, although it may be the most picturesque of courses particularly in the fall of the year when the maples are turning after the early frosts.

* * *

The Mississauga course was laid out 25 years ago along the banks of the Credit river, a stream of some width which was navigable some distance from Lake Ontario within the past 40 years. A portion of the course is laid out on the banks and hills above the stream, while other holes have been built on flats about the river. A mild winter will be a blessing to Stansfield, but severe weather and heavy snowfall is bound to add to the task which the club has thrust on his shoulders.

* * *

The flats of the Mississauga course have been flooded frequently, in fact annually to greater or lesser extent when the Credit river broke up. These floods have deposited gravel, silt and clay over the fairways and on one occasion many laborers were required to remove it. At the same time great cakes of ice have destroyed portions of the fairway bordering the stream. If the Credit river goes out in a peaceful fashion, then Mr. Stansfield's job on behalf of a club obtaining its first major tournament will be simplified, but otherwise he might be left with ten weeks to prepare his course.

* * *

Until 1928, the Mississauga course was regarded as old fashioned. When it was revamped under the direction of Stanley Thompson, it was slightly over 6,000 yards in length. It was a course on which the average professional might be expected to break 70. The revamping of the course added 500 yards. The distance was secured

by clearing away swamp land and although the work was done during the fall of 1928, it was not until the fall of 1929 that the lengthened course was opened for play. Some difficulty was experienced in whipping the additional portion of the course into shape, largely on account of the conditions which prevailed in the spring.

* * *

Members of the club were assured by Mr. Thompson when he laid out the new holes that the club would have a very fine test; something which might be compared with pride to championship courses of the United States. The well known professionals of the American continent who annually patronize the Canadian open championship may discover that such is the case, and if so it will be due to the labor of Stansfield and his men. Stansfield has installed a watering system along some of the fairways and may add a few traps about some of the greens.

* * *

The Hamilton Golf and Country Club's course, a lightly trapped test, was chosen for the 1930 championship. The prediction was made that par would be broken with regularity. The prediction was correct for many professionals turned in cards in the 60's, while Tommy Armour entered into a play-off with Leo Diegel with a 65 for his final round. Armour and his confreres should have no more difficulty in meeting the requirements of the Mississauga course than they experienced at Hamilton.


* * *

Stanley Thompson's work which can be found on many courses in Canada and on some courses in the Eastern states has found favor with golfers generally. Mr. Thompson built the courses of the Canadian National railways when Sir Henry Thornton decided that golf could be related to transportation and also the courses of the Canadian Pacific railway. Mr. Thompson's work in many instances contains copies of outstanding holes on courses in the British Isles and the United States.

* * *

Thompson was recently engaged by the Lambton Golf and Country Club to bunker its course in spots along the lines of the work done at the Royal York, where greens are capacious and traps are large. The Lambton course, like Mississauga, is built on flats along a stream of

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some width. The club was influenced in its decision to tighten up its course by the appeal of the Royal York course to golfers, and also by a desire to relieve the monotonous aspect of its course from the upper portions.

* * *

While Mr. Thompson's work finds favor, George Cumming, dean of Canadian professionals, has been called on to apply his extensive experience to courses in Ontario and Quebec. Cumming is concluding work on a course at London, Ont.

Before departing for the fall meeting of the executive committee of the National Greenkeepers' association which was held in New York city, Vice-president Sansom announced that the first winter meeting of the Ontario greenkeepers' association would be held in December and that these meetings would be held monthly until greenkeepers resumed work on their courses in April. Reports from his colleagues are that work has been finished for the year.

←—————→

Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

FROM present indications it would seem that the widely-publicised Southern California mid-winter golf tournaments are not going to be so famous this year because several of them are not going to materialize. Two or three have been abandoned primarily because of the local professional golfers' association demanding that ten per cent of the prize money to be offered in the individual tournaments be turned over to the association. Just why the professionals should have chosen to do this, especially at this time, is not quite clear to the writer, but it would seem to be very much of a tactical blunder.

* * *

In spite of the fact that statesmen insist that the nation's economic status is basically sound, even the most optimistic will have to admit that money is a little harder to get at the present time than usual. It is only to be expected that the various clubs are feeling the pinch of the economic pressure and are only too willing to seize any excuse to curtail all expenses. The ultimatum of the professional golfers coming as it did at this time, therefore, was predestined to meet with but little favor among the paying golfers, regardless of the right or wrong of the situation from the pro's standpoint.

* * *

Added to this is another angle: many of the attendant evils of large open and invitational tournaments have been such as to dampen the enthusiasm of club officials, and one or two clubs in this locality have been seeking an opening to eliminate the tournaments on this account alone. With no intention of making derogatory remarks about the professional golfers themselves, there is a feeling current in many sections of the coast that the camp followers of famous golfers constitute an

evil to be eliminated if possible. Self-appointed personal caddies and just plain bums and hangers on flock to wherever a tournament of any size is being played, for purposes never fully to be determined by casual observation. Suffice it to say that the percentage of petty thefts and other discrepancies around a golf course is never so great as when a tournament is being held.

* * *

As far as the greenkeepers are concerned, it must be admitted that most of them lifted their voices in prayerful praise when the Virginia Country club of Long Beach, California, started all the excitement by calling

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The "Old Man" has the tools and all he needs is a supply of the right kind of material to improve your greens by absorption this winter.



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off its annual tournament rather than give in to the demand of the Professional Golfers' association. Tournaments mean work and expense for them, two items they have been ordered to avoid as one would avoid the plague. Tourneys call forth a terrific amount of wear and tear on tees, fairways, and greens, so that the greenkeepers will not be the ones to be heard mourning if big competitions are never held again. And if rain comes in the course of the matches, as it frequently does, the red ink on the ledger assumes an even brighter hue.

* * *

Speaking of rainfall, and who does not, Southern California has had practically no rain this season as yet in spite of the fact that scientists and Indian prophets have forecasted deluges for a decade. Jupiter Pluvius evidently has not been notified of the predictions. At any rate the greenkeepers in the south are plying water as they have been plying it day and night since about last March.

* * *

Last month it was mentioned in this column that the botany department of the University of Southern California was preparing to come to the aid of the greenkeeper. Now another department of the same institution has declared itself for the fray. Dr. Wilfred W. Scott of the Trojan chemistry department was searching for a field of possible activity, when he happened to look at his lawn. And right there he found a topic staring him in the face and encroaching upon every bit of territory where it could find the suspicion of a foothold—Bermuda grass. Immediately he set one of his graduate students to work upon the problem, and thousands of lawn owners of this territory can assure him that it will be a hard one. The university chemists are approaching the problem from the standpoint of Bermuda's inability to grow in acid soil and are trying to determine the exact amount of acid required to kill the weed and permit the other grasses to grow?

* * *

There is one serious difficulty to this approach which has been demonstrated on the greens of the United

States; that is, acid soil is a prolific field for the development of brown patch, possibly because the condition of the soil weakens the plants. At any rate, after the application of acid forming fertilizers it became necessary to apply large quantities of lime in order to stop its formation and so prevent the ravages of brown patch. Nevertheless legions of greenkeepers will pray for the success of the S. C. scientists.

Columbus is Alive

THE Central Ohio District Golf Association Green Section held their meeting November 12 at the Elks' Club, Columbus, and it was well attended. Colonel John Morley addressed the gathering with a wonderful talk which was well received.

Fred A. Burkhardt took the floor and assured the success of the Greenkeepers' Show from the fact that nearly all the space in the auditorium had been sold and that he expected big things in Columbus this time and believed this would be a howling success.

Jos. Williamson spoke on the advantages of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America and the benefits to its members through the educational program and from the writers to its magazine the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER with the result that five new members were signed from this district and we are happily looking forward to a bigger and better show when we again join hands and swap ideas in the capital city of Ohio.



H. H. RAMSEY

Nominated for President of the United States Golf Association for 1931. Mr. Ramsey is a member of the Creek Club on Long Island and has been Secretary and Vice President of the U. S. G. A. since 1925