



NEWS LETTER

CONFERENCE NUMBER

"THE ITCH OF SPRING"
MARCH MEETING
WINTER SCHOOL CONFERENCE
ACT THE PROFESSIONAL
CLUB NOTES

MARCH

1931

This NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Greenkeepers Club of New England, and sent free to its members and their Greens' Chairmen. Subscription price ten cents a copy, or a dollar a year.

GUY C. WEST Editor
312 Mt. Pleasant St., Fall River, Mass.

MARSTON BURNETT . Business Mgr.
330 Waltham St., West Newton, Mass.

March, 1931

Vol. 3, No. 3

THE "ITCH" OF SPRING

Did you ever get the "Itch of Spring?"
The first warm day brings out the thing!
The golfers have it at the Club—
From the better players to the dub.
Although the Course is still snow-bound,
All through the clubhouse they hang
'round—
Getting "the feel" of the clubs and
"swing"
They've surely got the "Itch of Spring."

Others have the "Itch" it seems—
Even the man who keeps the greens,
Itching to try **this new** and **that**
All over his course to make it "pat"
I wonder if at times it wouldn't be well—
To cure the "Itch" and break the spell
And take things in the OLD SANE way
And try the experiments some other
day?

Carlton E. Treat

MARCH MEETING

Marston Burnett, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee presided at this meeting. He introduced as the first speaker Mr. Orville O. Clapper, of the New England Toro Co. Mr. Clapper explained the points of the new Toro Trojan fairway unit. This unit has been in experimental stage for the last three years, worked last year on courses in various parts of the United States. Both types, Trojan and Super Mowers, are manufactured now. Several points of this new mower are credited to greenkeepers' suggestions—six blade reel—reel and bed knife form own unit inside side frames—driving by four dogs each side of machine—one train of gears—both wheels drive through floating axle—torsion of side frame does not alter

the adjustment. It is very simple to take reel out. The distance between reel shaft and drive shaft has been shortened. At 24½ miles per hour the machine mows perfectly and stays on the ground. It will pull 70% lighter than former mower. Mower can be adjusted to cut rough. There are three knives on the bed knife all the time; hence, pulsation is even. Weight is 215 lbs.; price \$112.50.

Mr. John Nyhan, local distributor for Pennsylvania Lawn Mower Works, discussed the new Pennsylvania unit. Every part is malleable iron, positively unbreakable. Reel runs on double ball bearing, self adjusting. Bed knife is double edged. Roller has new feature, on single ball bearing. Alemite greasing throughout. Sixteen different adjustments for height of cut; from ¼ inch to 3 inches. Three gears on side with two Timkin roller bearings. Weight 185 lbs.; price \$110.

The new Ideal power greens mower was explained by Mr. Steve Berecz, Boston Representative. This mower is the lightest power greens mower yet produced, and is essentially an Ideal hand greens mower with a ¾ H. P. motor attached. This motor weighs but 30 lbs., and is made by the Johnson Outboard Motor Co. Power is applied directly to reel, as greatest need. From reel, power is applied to roller through chain of three gears. By removing intermediate gear, power runs reel only, and mower can be pushed by hand. Weight is around a hundred pounds, price \$198.

Mr. E. R. Sawtelle, representative of the Worthington Mower Co., sent regrets that he was unable to have a new Worthington Mower present for examination and discussion.

A new wrench for taking spuds from Worthington tractors, and various pullers, were announced by Mr. R. Booth of Waltham.

A question box hour followed.

The question of ants on putting greens was discussed. It was the opinion of those present that there is no remedy which is effective for all species of ants. Tartar emetic was reported as a control for red ants on one course; another reported that the ants became "educated" to this tartar emetic.

Q. What is the best fertilizer for fescue and bluegrass turf?

A. Vigero is too high priced, too low in Nitrogen, too high relatively in potash.

Inorganic fertilizer for fairways in Spring, organics in Fall.

For long pull, organics.

Type of soil will affect fertilization.

Organics liberate bacteria, help soil to hold moisture.

Q. How often should cups be changed?

A. As often as needed, depends on play.

Greenkeeper should only change cup when he has no one else to do it; should have man trained for this purpose.

The matter of whether a club should have its own shop with a mechanic or should send its mowers, etc., to repair shops was discussed at length. Machinery must be looked after in either case. Men sharpening mowers must know how to do it; service shop does better job usually. Subject seems one for individual club to decide.

The subject of whether a club buying labor-saving machinery should lay off the labor saved, or should use the labor available to do other neglected things, and hence raise the standards of maintenance, brought out much comment in favor of using the labor saved to get the very essential "puttering" work done. This work doesn't show much often, but it is very necessary. Often the amount of machinery is overdone. There is a necessity for more equipment where play is very heavy.

At the regular meeting, with President Treat in the chair, the Conference in Amherst on the 13th, 14th and 15th, was announced. Andrew Tiramani of the Marlboro Country Club, and Thomas Murray of the Tedesco Country Club were elected to membership.

WINTER SCHOOL CONFERENCE

The fifth annual conference and golf course maintenance exhibition was held at the Massachusetts Agricultural College on March 13, 14, and 15. Over four hundred enjoyed the fine programs and interesting and helpful exhibits prepared by the Winter School for Greenkeepers under direction of Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson and staff. Space does not permit us to describe in detail the many points of interest in the various exhibits. Machinery, mowers, fertilizer experiments, brown-patch, seed, and many others were on exhibition.

Professor Frank A. Waugh was the first speaker at the first conference.

Prof. Waugh spoke on the "Landscape Background", and showed some very interesting and beautiful lantern slides to bring out the points of his talk. The background of our whole life is the landscape; the man who doesn't love his landscape has some moral quality greatly lacking. Each one of us is actually selling his landscape to his customers. In order to promote our own business and make business pay, we must sell the landscape—we must love the landscape ourselves in order to sell it—to love it we must see it, and understand it. In many rock gardens there is too much garden and not enough rock; the best possible arrangement of the rocks is necessary to start a rock garden. One should admire and understand rocks as well as the plants. Rock gardens are not as simple as most people think; ecological conditions are drier than most kinds of gardens. Nature groups plants with shape of practically circle, high in center, lower around the edge. There is some logic in all this landscape; we must study it to enable us to make better studies of our own.

The second speaker was Prof. F. A. McLaughlin, State Seed Analyst. Seed testing was described, and the laws for seed testing discussed. Seed analysts are coming more to the use of soil in the laboratory for germination tests, half garden soil sterilized and half sand. Reason is that seed might not have vitality to form plant in the soil, but it might have enough vitality to throw out part of plant in wet filter paper test. In future no seed is to be called germinated unless root and cotyledon both develop. Because of time required and lack of help, a month is usually needed for a test.

The program Saturday morning included four round table discussions, to be reported in future issues.

At the afternoon conference, Mr. Talbot C. Chase, President of the Massachusetts Golf Association, spoke on the aims of the M. G. A. The program in mind is with idea of accomplishing something, and doing good. Condition of a course is just as much a part of the game as any other; pleasure of the game is largely dependent on the condition of the course. It was recommended at the last annual meeting that the M. G. A. take over the Service Bureau. The officials have enough ambition to increase the activities; the opportunity is here to take over the golf

course maintenance work which the Service Bureau has done. Steps to advance are vague as yet. More revenue needed, proper personnel. A raise of dues is being asked to include a Greens Section of the M. G. A. Important factor is cooperation from all factions. Special committee should be organized, including representatives of the clubs, Greenkeepers Club. Purpose is to provide something good for member clubs. Functions of this Green Section should be information rather than buying. The local club should be the best judge of where it should buy, but prices would be kept on file at the Greens Section.

Mr. Francis Ouimet gave his ideas of a low handicap player's views on turf maintenance. The good player is very sensitive, doesn't blame himself for high scores but blames the condition of the greens. Mr. Ouimet paid a tribute to greenkeepers in general saying he has always found greens in first class shape. He has noticed that many good golfers complain of certain stolon greens, which have a grain. The putting touch on one green on a course should be O. K. for the other greens. English and Scotch greens are splendid to putt on; nature of turf is such that a putting green could be built on the fairways. It is impossible to see from the point where a drive lands where the green and fairway come together. Putting greens abroad are immense in size. Greens here are a little softer.

Motion pictures were shown of "Golf in Slow Motion", and "Golfing with Jesse Sweetser".

At the Saturday evening conference, Dr. Howard B. Sprague of the New Jersey Experiment Station gave his interesting talk on "Water Requirements of Grasses". Parts of this talk were reported in the last NEWSLETTER under the Columbus convention, but there are many points worthy of repetition. Water is essential at all stages in life of the plant. Seed must be kept moist for time required to germinate. Best time for seeding is thus during time when rainfall is liable to be ample. Most critical period is at stage when plant has started. All of the water in the soil is not available for the plant. The available water content varies greatly with the soil. Add clay or organic matter to increase moisture holding capacity. Eastern soils are usually deficient in organic matter, which is very desirable. Drainage keeps

ground water at same level, hence improves root development. There is good evidence that strong acidity retards water absorption. Sufficient phosphoric acid makes root development good. Plants can be harmed by an excess of Nitrogen. Quantity of water required isn't very great; little is known at present concerning loss by evaporation. Height of cut affects depth of root system; fairways often are cut too short. The wearing quality of grass is very important. Best use of artificial watering is to keep plant growing slowly.

Motion pictures were shown of "Dynamiting", "Angle Worm Eradication", and "Japanese Beetle".

Sunday morning gave those present an opportunity to inspect the turf plots, and see some snow mold. In the afternoon, Prof. Dickinson gave his talk on Large Brown-patch.

Question boxes were held on each evening and on Sunday afternoon. Some of the questions discussed will appear from time to time in later issues.

A well-balanced program with a wealth of material gave all present a chance to improve their ideas and we feel sure that all enjoyed themselves in the common discussions of a common problem.

WE HEARD AT THE CONFERENCE:

That the new New Britain nine hole course was built in 25 working days, including seeding, at cost of \$12,400, including a water system. This is the first nine of the municipal course, designed by Robert J. Ross, and is a real course, well-trapped, and was built with no profit to the contractor.

That brushing will help control snow mold.

That arsenate of lead will kill chickweed.

That topdressing with liberal amount of organic matter may act as mulch and retard evaporation.

That the time to roll fairways is as soon as the frost is out, and the roller doesn't get wet.

That there is no set rule for anything in Greenkeeping.

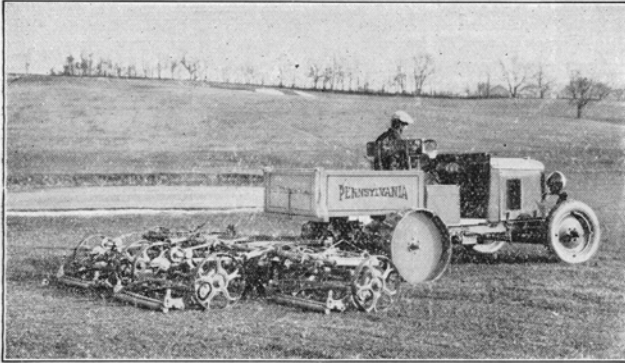
That starvation will affect annual blue grass—may also affect the members.

That lime will open up a hide-bound green by making soil particles bigger.

That bents are self-fertilized, so probably will seed true to strain, not becoming cross-pollenized.

"NEW MOWERS and PARTS—\$33.18"

Reports Overbrook's Treasurer for 1930!



Using Pennsylvania machines exclusively --on fairways, greens, tees and as trimmers --Overbrook Golf Club, Philadelphia, spent only \$33.18 for new mowers and part in 1930.

This is a record, particularly for an 18-hole course, that is always kept in fine condition, and it reflects credit on everybody concerned. As for the part played by the mowing equipment, we

gratefully acknowledge Treasurer H. T. McDermott's letter, in which he says: "Too much praise cannot be given the Pennsylvania Lawn Mower Works for supplying our Green Committee with such high quality machines."

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That the addition of charcoal to the soil increases the phosphorus present.

That the new Springfield Municipal course has had 700 players in a day.

That the hazards of newly seeded greens include: dogs, kids, washouts, poor seed, premature cutting, cutting with dull mower, disease, overwatering, unseasonable hot weather, etc.

That the Greenkeeper should be a fair keeper of accounts for his own protection.

That there is a green of iron filings in New Mexico.

That iron sulphate will control dandelions in the fairways and rough.

Etc. etc.

ACT THE PROFESSIONAL!

In looking over the list of colleges giving instruction or aid to the Greenkeeper, in considering the many conferences of educational value held for their benefit, one can easily understand that Greenkeeping and Greenkeepers have changed. Yes, the Art of Greenkeeping has surely reached the professional stage.

Not many years ago, Greenkeepers as a whole were more or less considered as little more than advanced laborers—today, they are more and more classed as professional men. Greenkeepers can travel along this road just as far as they themselves decide. It is up to them!

Just so long as Greenkeepers are open-minded, just so long as they are able to mix common sense with practical experience and the wealth of valuable theoretical information at hand, as well as to show their ability to make the right use of this material—just so far will they advance.

After all, education's main object is to develop one to think for himself and to use common sense in applying the theoretical along with the practical—being able to bring the theoretical to the practical stage. It's the wise Greenkeeper who knows the "whys and wherefores" of what he does—it's the wiser Greenkeeper who can sift out the valuable theoretical information and apply it to his own needs.

Indeed, we are in the midst of the birth of a new profession and it behooves each and every Greenkeeper to open his mind, to practice sane methods and in every way to act the professional man.

A good doctor or lawyer is careful that his methods or actions do not

bring disrepute on other members of his calling. They use care not to do the unethical thing. We as Greenkeepers should use care at all times, that we will so work and so act that at all times it will add respect to this new profession.

By acting and using methods of the professional man we can go a long way to determine just how far this new "calling" will go. Lets act the professional man!

Carlton E. Treat.

FURTHER NOTES FROM NAT. CONVENTION

Prof. L. S. Dickinson of Massachusetts Agricultural College was the first speaker on the program Friday afternoon. His subject was "the Greenkeeper and his Chairman".

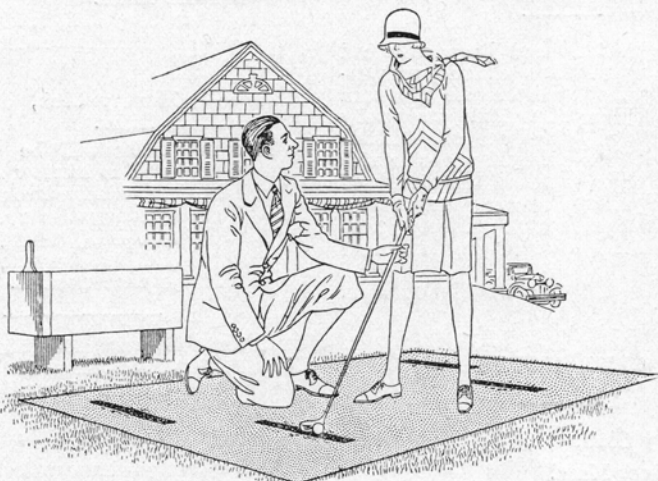
The constant changing of Greens Committee Chairmen is the cause of much waste of the Clubs' funds. New Chairmen have ideas that certain changes must be made for the improvement of their courses. The Greenkeeper is instructed to make the alterations. If the Greenkeeper believes that these changes are not going to be beneficial, he should explain this to the Chairman and show him why these plans would not be an improvement. However, if the Chairman insists on having this particular work done, the Greenkeeper should do this work to the best of his ability, and give his full co-operation.

There should be the finest co-operation between the Chairman and the Greenkeeper. The Greenkeeper must show that he is capable of managing the work of the golf course. A Chairman has responsibilities as a Director of the Club and must realize that a competent Greenkeeper should have full authority on the golf course.

Prof. Dickinson stated that he could see no way how the cost of maintenance of golf courses could be standardized. It is advisable for a Greenkeeper to have a cost keeping system of his own for comparison from year to year, and very necessary to compare the condition of his golf course at least twice a season and take into consideration the quality as well as cost.

Greenkeepers are willing to use new methods that will improve their courses and are desirous of co-operating with any other organization to that end.

PARATEX TEE MAT



Make this test:

Install a Paratex at your tee that shows the hardest wear, or at your practice tee. Note how it stands up—provides firmer footing and altogether better playing conditions. Ask your players what they think of it. See how you have put an end to tee maintenance expense and time.

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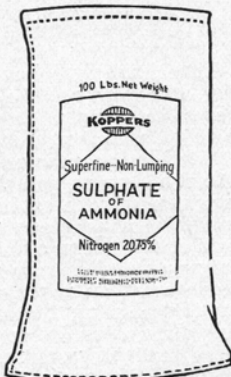
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QUESTION BOX

Several questions had been collected during the three days of the convention, and the last item on the program was the question box. This was very capably presided over by Prof. Dickinson. The questions brought up some fine discussions and quite a number of different opinions were expressed. These discussions showed clearly that each location has its own problems and remedies.

James McCormack.

CLUB NOTES

The Country Club,

Brookline, Mass.

Going to build eight new tees for ladies to make woman's par 77. Several changes are in process on the steeplechase course. Some ledge is still being removed.

Charles River Country Club,

Newton Centre, Mass.

Seeding new eighteenth fairway. Several tees are being constructed for women to make their par 77. Fairways heavily topdressed last Fall are being raked.

Tatnuck Country Club,

Worcester, Mass.

Back of ninth green is being raised, also work on approach being done. Method used for nursery is of interest. Velvet bent growing native is gathered and planted in nursery rows; seed from these rows is gathered and used on greens; stolons replanted in rows to enlarge the amount. In two years, enough is grown from a few plugs to plant two greens. The seed gathered is scattered over the greens, and then greens are top-dressed.

Cohasse Country Club,

Southbridge, Mass.

Whole ninth fairway and tee are being rebuilt, and changes being made around green, with grass hollow around green, bunkers diagonally across fairway. New Nursery of South German bent is being made.

Weston Country Club,
Weston, Mass.

Reconstructing 7, 8, 9, 10th tees. New fence around tennis courts is being built.

Blue Hill Country Club,
Canton, Mass.

Two new holes will be played this Summer, to add to 12 now in play; four more are under construction to be played next year. A new water system is being installed this Spring, using water from Capen's brook, to water the greens and fairways that need it.

Reserve May 25, for your visit to the Rhode Island Experiment Station for the second annual Greenkeepers' Field Day.

The question has arisen in many quarters as to whether a club buying labor saving equipment should lay off the labor saved or should they use this saved labor to do other jobs and thus raise the standard of maintenance. We would like your reactions to this question. We would appreciate letters from our green committee chairmen friends on this question. In the Feb. issue we had the ideas of one equipment manufacturer on the question; possibly other dealers would differ. The question is of interest.

The Pennsylvania Lawn Mower Works have recently announced a change of address from Philadelphia to Primos, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

We like the sentiment expressed in a letter to us recently from a well-known dealer here in New England, as it shows the high standards which most of our dealers here have: "I have always maintained and still believe that when the trade awards us with their business and it is of sufficient quantity to afford us better buying powers that we owe our trade the duty to pass along to them what we can of this saving. I am not in this business to clean up a fortune in a few short years and take it by gouging my friends. I only want what is my fair interest on investment, effort and other contributing factors. I hope to see this firm ever grow with the business and that it will receive enough support from you men to keep it always among the progressive."

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The "Overgreen" can also be supplied with cutting units of the high wheel type.

Although cutting the greens is known to be the most expensive operation in golf course maintenance the adoption of the Worthington "Overgreen" reduces this cost to an almost negligible quantity.

No club or greenkeeper in these days can afford, from an economic standpoint, to disregard the claims of this great time and labor saver.

The Worthington gang mower was first on the fairways and is first on the greens!

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Particularly interesting is the power application—applied direct to cutting reel, then through the gears to the traction roller. In this way, the reel is actually tractor driven—insuring smooth, even cutting on sharp raises or in heavy work, reducing wear on gears and eliminating all chance of scuffing. The new Ideal Power green mowers were thoroughly tested on all types of grass in various parts of the country during the year of 1930. The clutch operating the drive mechanism is so designed that to start the machine forward the operator merely raises the mower handle and the clutch is automatically engaged. At the end of the swath, the operator turns the clutch lever, raises the handle and the machine is again traveling across the green.

SOILS AND FERTILIZER DISCUSSION

This round table discussion was led by Prof. Cubbon.

To successfully seed fairways on top of sandy hill, try using a complete fertilizer 8-6-6. Also try lime; or charcoal, which not only improves the physical condition, but adds some available phosphorus. The finer the charcoal, the more alkaline the soil becomes. There is five times as much available phosphorus in charcoal as in ordinary soil. In applying, mix it 50-50 with soil, to break up heavy clay soil, and water it generously.

Prof. Cubbon advised a 10-6-6 formula as the best fertilizer for greens, washed in. Again, 3 or 4 lbs. of muriate of potash is enough for clay soils,

while sandy soils require more. The continued use of sulphate of ammonia fails to keep out clover because it tends to release more potash in the soil, thus counteracting the acidity. After long continued use of sulphate of ammonia it would be wise to risk using some lime. Excellent results have followed the use of flower of sulphur to counteract clover.

The discussion of humus developed that the cost usually exceeds its value, and what nitrogen it contains is not available. Removing from bogs direct to soil is as liable to be detrimental as helpful.

Regarding the quantity of sand to use in aerating a clay soil, a two parts sand to one part soil was advised. Prof. Cubbon also said that greens are often overwatered, and that eight inches a month is sufficient. Also twice a week and generous when done is better than small applications every day.

The question of how much cottonseed meal to use was answered that it required three times as much cottonseed meal as sulphate of ammonia to get the same amount of nitrogen. At present it is one of the cheapest and best sources of organic material.

R. Wallace Peckham.

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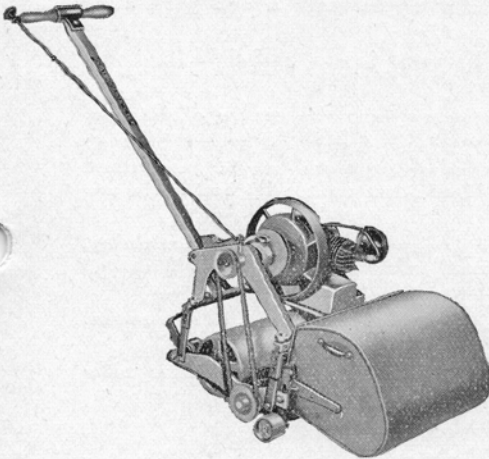
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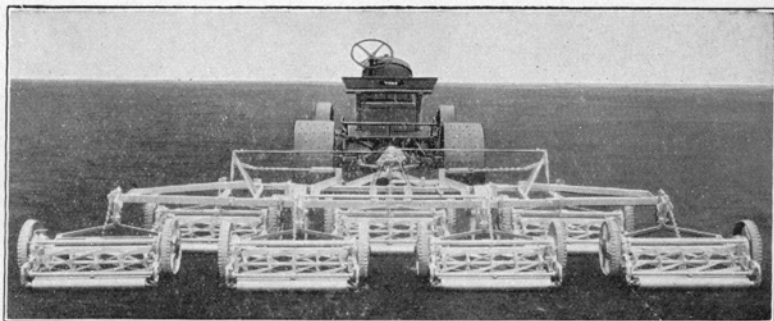
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Every gear in a TORO Trojan or Super mower is guaranteed for the life of the machine. All blades and double lip bed knife are made of chrome vanadium steel.

Simplicity and correctness in design — precision in machining, new type adjustment and hitch, with other factors have contributed toward making this unit extremely light in draft.

Trojan mowers may be had in gangs of one, three, five or seven. They may be pulled behind or ahead of the tractor as desired.

Trojan units are interchangeable into older TORO frames without extra expense to the customer.

Investigate all 1931 models of TORO Equipment before placing your orders. It will pay you to do so.

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