



# NEWS LETTER

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*Grasp an idea and work it out to a successful conclusion.  
That is about all there is in life for any of us.*

—EDWARD H. HARRIMAN

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**SEPTEMBER**

**1935**

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

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132 Russett Rd., West Roxbury, Mass.

September, 1935                      Vol. 7, No. 9

Hoping to get some news of some of our members who haven't been around much this season, we wrote some twenty, asking them to send us news of themselves. Replies have been few, but we are including what we have!

Jim Lawson of Misquamicut sends in the following as worthy of our attention:

**"The Good Indian's Prayer"**

Oh Powers that be, make me sufficient to my own occasions. Teach me to know and to observe the Rules of the Game. Give to me to mind my own business at all times and to lose no good opportunity of holding my tongue. Help me not to cry for the moon or over spilled milk. Grant me neither to proffer nor to welcome cheap praise; to distinguish sharply between sentiment and sentimentality, cleaving to one and despising the other. Give to me to be always a good comrade, and to view the passing show with an eye constantly growing keener, a charity broadening and deepening day by day.

"Help me to win, if win I must; but—and this, Oh Powers, especially—if I may not win, make me a good loser,

Amen".

Frank Robinson reports that he has planted six thousand square feet of 14276 velvet for future use. Frank also has experimented with this strain, cutting it into existing sod, and says that in two years his lawn which was formerly very poor, is now nearly filled in with the good strain. A story of his work during the past two years with this strain is promised us for the NEWSLETTER.

Arthur Anderson is looking worried these days. We wondered if his duties as chairman of our golf committee were the cause, but a little birdie reports that he is thinking of double harness soon!

Bud Hayden tells us that he is building a new tenth tee at Woodland.

Landscaping is being done at Pakachoag Hill, with Tom Mattus putting in many Lombardy poplars and red pines in the areas between the fairways. Work for the Fall is to include the building of several new tees.

Jim Sullivan, formerly of Waltham, is now building a new nine hole course at the Jesuit College in Weston, Mass. He is to seed four greens this Fall, and the rest in the Spring. Most of the new fairways are on old meadow land with sod of mostly colonial bent.

Cliff Sowerby reports that the course at Marlboro has been in wonderful shape this season, so good in fact that the course record was broken, now being 68. Par has only been broken four times previously.

The 12th and 16th greens at Winchester are to be rebuilt this Fall. The procedure is to prepare the soil with the Tilivator, add 300 pounds of superphosphate, resod with 14276 velvet from the nursery. Les Wildgust also is putting in a new nursery of this strain, 8000 sq. ft. in area, to give him 24000 sq. ft. total on hand. Les also told us of something of which we hadn't heard before. Every Fall he has his gang remove some two acres of sod from his 3rd fairway, cart it away to store for the Winter, and the area is then flooded for skating and hockey. In the Spring the area is put into shape, and the sod put back, and in a short time the grass seems to be growing better than ever.

Dr. T. E. Odland has planted the front lawn of his new house at Kingstons with Kernwood bent, using seed. This lawn should be well worth seeing in a couple of years!

## PLANT NEW LAWNS IN LATE AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER

Howard B. Sprague, Agronomist  
New Jersey Agri. Exp. Sta.

Home owners who contemplate seeding new lawns, or replanting old ones, are urged to carry out their plans in late August or in September. Lawns seeded in late summer and early fall have a greater opportunity for success than those planted at any other season of the year. The cool moist weather normally experienced during the fall months is ideal for germination and sturdy growth of the grass seedlings, and the turf improves rapidly in vigor during the spring growing period. Consequently, fall seeded lawns are able to endure drought and competition from summer weeds far better than spring seeded areas.

The seed bed should be carefully prepared, since the soil is more conveniently and inexpensively improved before planting than afterward. Drainage must be adequate for all grasses, both at the surface and in the subsoil. Areas which are chronically soggy will require the installation of agricultural tile drains, whereas heavy soils that merely drain slowly may be corrected by the incorporation of organic matter and lime. Light sandy and shaley soils with low water holding capacities benefit greatly by the incorporation of liberal amounts of spent mushroom soil, or compost containing substantial proportions of both clay and organic matter.

The application of sufficient hydrated lime or ground limestone to correct excessive acidity will prove an excellent investment in maintaining the established turf. Practically all soils in this region are naturally deficient in humus, and therefore require the thorough incorporation of organic matter in the form of well rotted manure, cultivated peat, or raw native peat. In addition to the foregoing treatment, 20 to 30 lbs. of a complete commercial fertilizer should be applied for each 1,000 square feet of surface. For convenience, the lime, organic matter, and fertilizer may all be mixed simultaneously with the upper 4 to 6 inches of soil.

After the seed bed has been leveled and firmed, the upper inch should be finely pulverized by raking. Approxi-

mately 4 pounds of a high quality lawn seed mixture will be sufficient for each 1,000 square feet, provided the seed is uniformly distributed and raked in lightly. The newly seeded area should be kept moderately moist for several weeks to permit ready germination of the grass seed. Artificial watering must be in the form of a fine mist-like spray to avoid formation of a hard crust on the soil surface. It is essential to moisten the soil thoroughly to a depth of at least 4 inches when water is applied.

Cheap lawn seed mixtures are a common cause of lawn failures. Such mixtures invariably are composed of grasses which soon die under regular mowing, and frequently contain very large amounts of chaff and dirt.

Lawn enthusiasts who prefer turf made from a single grass species rather than a mixture, are advised to plant Cheewing's Fescue, Velvet bent, or Kentucky bluegrass, depending on the particular area in question. Attention to the purity and germination of all grass seed is a necessary precaution, since adulteration with inferior grasses and the presence of dead seed are not readily detected by the purchaser. Tests of representative samples of the seed made by a reputable seed analyst will reveal its true worth.

## GREEN LAWNS ON TERRACE SLOPES

Howard B. Sprague, Agronomist  
New Jersey Agri. Exp. Sta.

Terraced slopes are difficult locations on which to establish and maintain turf. Although the problems increase greatly with the steepness of the slope, success may be expected on the majority of terraces provided attention is given to the particular situation at hand. The more important factors to be considered are: thorough preparation of the seed bed, the use of a suitable seed mixture, planting in early fall, and regular fertilization, watering, and mowing.

Terraced lawns invariably suffer from moisture shortage, since a large proportion of the water from rains and artificial watering runs off the slope before it has an opportunity to enter

the soil. To offset this condition, it is highly essential that the soil be adequately limed and organic matter incorporated at the time the seed bed is prepared. Acid soils tend to become impermeable to water entrance, whereas soils that are made mildly acid or neutral by liming, admit water readily. Organic matter additions in the form of well rotted manure, raw native peat, or cultivated peat, not only improve the ability of the soil to take in moisture but also increase the total water capacity of the soil.

The successful grass seed mixture for terraces must consist of species which are deep rooted and tolerant of drought. Early fall is the most favorable season for planting terraced lawns, since the grass has an opportunity to become well established during the cool moist fall and spring months. Spring seedings generally suffer severely from summer drought and competition with weeds, unless carefully watered and weeded frequently.

Following the incorporation of the necessary lime and organic matter, the soil on the terrace slope should receive an application of approximately 25 pounds of a well-balanced, complete fertilizer, the material evenly spread over each 1,000 square feet and raked into the surface soil. To insure an even stand of grass, the lawn seed mixture recommended above should be scattered uniformly over the seed bed, at the rate of 4 to 5 pounds per 1,000 square feet, the area raked lightly to cover the seed, and rolled. In order to avoid washing of the newly seeded lawn by rains or artificial watering, the entire slope may then be covered with cheesecloth or some similar open-mesh inexpensive fabric. The cloth is held permanently in place by short stakes or staples placed at frequent intervals. The young grass plants grow through the cloth without difficulty, and the rotting fabric forms a mulch to protect the plants until well established.

The terrace lawn will endure drought and other adversities to a greater degree if cut at 1 inch or longer, than if mowed closely. Periodic cutting at a 1-inch length permits vigorous root development in spring and fall and also improves the density of the turf. The addition of a complete fertilizer in early spring and early fall, the application of lime as needed to correct excessive acidity, and regular watering during periods of moisture shortage, are also important phases of turf main-

tenance on the terrace slope. Where the incline is so steep that erosion of the soil by rain occurs, 1 or 2 top dressings of screened top soil or compost yearly will aid in maintaining a smooth surface.

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### SUCCESSFUL LAWNS ON SHADED AREAS

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Howard B. Sprague Agronomist  
New Jersey Agri. Exp. Sta.

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The successful establishment of turf on shaded areas necessitates the use of shade tolerant grasses, the improvement of soil conditions to meet growth requirements, and seeding at a seasonable time of the year. All grasses require some sunlight daily for satisfactory growth, although certain species are considerably more tolerant of limited light than others. Where turf is desired on densely shaded areas, judicious pruning of the trees will frequently permit the entrance of sufficient sunshine, without injury to the beauty or health of the trees.

The most favorable season for planting shaded areas is August 15 to October 15. This is particularly true where shade is caused by deciduous trees, since the young grass plants continue growth after leaf fall, and become well established before new tree leaves are produced the following spring. Early spring seedings may also prove successful on shaded locations provided soil conditions are satisfactory and the shade is not too dense.

The soil for the shaded lawn must have adequate drainage, since the turf suffers from outbreaks of disease on soggy soils which are poorly lighted. Agricultural tile drains may be installed to remove excess soil water, if natural drainage is not adequate. Excessive soil acidity should be corrected by the use of lime and organic matter, such as well rotted manure or cultivated peat, thoroughly incorporated with the upper few inches to improve soil structure. In addition, 20 to 30 pounds of a complete fertilizer should be applied per 1,000 square feet in preparation of the seed bed prior to seeding.

The most valuable grasses for shaded locations are Cheiving's fescue, Velvet

bent, and *Poa trivialis*. Home owners who prefer lawns made from a single species should plant Velvet bent or Chewing's fescue. Since seed of both grasses is sometimes impure or adulterated, particular attention to the purity of the seed purchased will be advisable. In planting the shaded lawn, 4 pounds of fescue are required for each 1,000 square feet of surface, whereas 1 pound of Velvet bent will prove entirely adequate for a similar area, due to the large number of seed per pound. Seeding rates in excess of the foregoing do not permit adequate development of individual plants and are therefore undesirable.

Uniform distribution of seed is essential in obtaining a desirable stand. The area should be lightly raked to cover the seed not deeper than  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. Newly planted areas should be kept moderately moist by watering with a fine mist-like spray until the grass is well established.

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### NORTH WOODS BENT

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The recent issuing of Plant Patent No. 143 to Earle M. Barrows of Minneapolis for his new variety of putting green grass marks a forward step that has many angles of interest to all greenkeepers. The variety patented is a distinct and new variety of *Agrostis stolonifera* (Creeping bent), but it has many of the desirable characteristics of the velvets, so it is claimed. Grown formerly as Northland Bent, the variety is now known as North Woods bent.

It is claimed for this new variety that its texture and density are like a rather coarse velvet, the putting is as good or better than any velvet because it is a trifle slower and more uniform, produces turf as rapidly as Metropolitan and consequently heals very rapidly, upkeep is low as it requires very little top-dressing, and turf has no tendency to grain.

The patenting of this strain of bent offers the thought that in the future there will probably be other strains perfected and patented. It therefore will behoove clubs which have nurseries in which they grow bent for their greens to examine closely as to the possibility of the strains which they are propagating having been patented, as a plant

patent gives the patentee excellent protection, and damages can be collected from even an innocent purchaser, with royalties collected from anyone wishing to grow their own stock. One can easily imagine the excitement if all the clubs which are now propagating Kernwood or No. 14276 velvet were forced to pay royalties to some patentee who had patented these strains earlier!

The development of this new Northern grown, cross-bred, Velvet type of stolon turf makes us wonder as to how many more strains will be developed in the next few years. It seems that another interesting field is given publicity, for we now are told that several men have been experimenting along these lines for several years. We understand that the originator of this new strain has been working in this field for some twelve years. It probably will not be possible for many greenkeepers to find or to develop new strains of promise, but we may expect other strains to be developed now that the patenting of one strain has shown the possibilities of future work.

We believe that most of the work done to date with this new strain has been in Minnesota, but that some data upon its growth in New England will be available in the next few years.

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### WHAT ABOUT TRAPS?

By Ernest Law

(Reprinted from The Pacific Greenkeeper)

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**Hazards**, particularly sand traps, are much like old fashioned flivvers; people know more cuss words and funny stories than they do anything else about them. From the standpoint of both the player and the superintendent they are the most universally bedammed thing about a golf course, because, no matter how they are constructed, their sandy bottoms absorb strokes and labor with alarming rapidity and show little effect after it's all over. The player and greenkeeper may lose sleep over the greens but it is the traps that get the profanity.

Show me a golfer or a course superintendent who is proud of the traps on his course, and I will show you a hundred that would rather point with expanded chest and brightening eye to

greens, fairways, or tees. In addition to their other sins they cost like everything and are hard to maintain. So why have traps at all?

Immediately to the fore come golfing tradition and course designers brandishing on high the following reasons as weapons to increase the difficulty of too easy holes, to punish poorly executed shots, to protect certain closed areas, to prevent the player from getting into worse trouble (imagine that), and to improve the appearance of the layout. Note that the whim of a reigning club official is omitted. Every course officer since time began believes that the traps which he has ordered constructed or destroyed were justified on the grounds of course improvement. Long and heart-wringing tales could be told of collections of bunkers and traps which change their outline annually with the change of club officialdom, but naught would avail and space would be wasted. Besides, this subject is tragic enough.

It is too bad that golf is not something like other games. In baseball the fielders move in or out or to one side according to the hitting habits of the man at bat. In cricket the bowler can arrange the fielders to suit the kind of batting his bowling is liable to produce. But in golf the players, whether steady or erratic, hookers or slicers, tappers or wallopers, all are confronted by the same obstacles; obstacles which are not standardized as in tennis, but which vary on every course. As a result no trap is fair to everybody.

It is the job of the architect, then, to design a trapping system for a player who will never see the course; one who, in fact, does not exist, but is a sort of composite of all players. The chances are then that all players will be discriminated in some degree. Realizing this many designers seem to have flung reason to the winds and have suited themselves as to how a particular hole should be trapped. It is the height of something or other that the traps thus produced are about as successful as any others. At any rate the results of trap design have been varied: some have been almost pleasing; some ghastly; and many comical; but all have caused grief to somebody. Some please solely from an aesthetic standpoint, but are expensive to maintain; others please the senses of no one, but are allowed to remain because they cost a lot to build.

**We hold** this truth to be self evident: traps should not be constructed

unless there is a reason for them. Yet how many exceptions to this axiom are there on your course? Plenty, unless it is an exceptional layout. Because the earliest golf courses were built on Scottish links where there was plenty of sand blowing about, it seems to have been necessary ever since to imitate those early golfing grounds.

Progress has been made, of course. Most bunkers now are built by people who realize that rain sometimes may come, and so drainage is provided for. Traps can be seen now where once they were liable to snare the unsuspecting player's ball from any point in the compass. And some of the more modern and radical architects are designing traps with the idea in mind of helping the greensman take care of them, and also of allowing players to go to the next tee without trampling through them.

It is entirely conceivable that some day course designers may realize that trees, and shrubs, and grassy hollows incorporated in a golf course can make it just as difficult while being less expensive and more beautiful than one infested with holes filled with the beach's favorite product. For the sake of tradition, the sand and gravel companies, niblick manufacturers, and club officials who must have something to change, a few sand traps should be allowed on every course, but not more than a few.

The August meeting of the Rhode Island Greenkeepers Association was held at the Louisquisset Golf Club on the 16th. Prizes at the golf tournament were won by Col. Milton and Frank Robinson. Following the business meeting a discussion on "Fairway Improvement" was of interest. Dr. Odland of the R. I. Experiment Station pointed out that there could be improvement on soils that would hold water by liming if needed, applying phosphate, then nitrogen twice a year if possible. Lime probably would last 8-10 years and the phosphate about 6 years. On gravelly knolls the final solution is water. For bluegrass fairways the acidity should not be below a pH of 6 and with fairways of bent and fescue should not be as low as 5.5. Martin Greene pointed out that his experiences at Wanamoissett has proven that moisture was needed more than any other factor.

### The Planter of Seeds

Many of us get very discouraged and think that our lives have missed their aims.

I have an idea that Nancy Hanks, the mother of Lincoln, who died at the age of 35, felt that her life had been in vain. The struggle. The worry. The disappointment. If she could but have lived to know that her flesh and blood had given to the world one of its rarest and noblest men!

I often think of the planter of seeds as I view a prosperous farm. I think we all have something in common with the "sower".

A father or mother looks into the eyes of their children and hopes for more happiness, more success, than they have had. They feel that their lives have not been in vain if their standards have been raised and their ideas for usefulness advanced.

We have history because there were planters of seeds in all countries, in all times, with courage, patience and vision.

—George Matthew Adams.

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We were pleased to receive the following from Albert Clark of Keene. There may be something in it about which we can think a bit.

In reply to yours of September first I wish to state, that I, like yourself and your carbon copy, have been exceedingly busy and there are, no doubt, many subjects on which I could write to a great extent and with some benefit to my fellow members, but "As brevity is the soul of wit" and time is precious, I will confine myself to a subject which is not, to anyone, a pleasant idea. That is to say, we often hear of "crabs" and there are a great many to be found in the Greenkeepers Club. (No personal offence intended.) My subject, however, will not be of this particular kind of crab but rather of a crab which is detested by all Greenkeepers namely, Crab GRASS. I leave it to your own good judgment to publish this in the Newsletter or not. For as there are no rewards offered it will be immaterial to me. I have had plenty of trouble with the last mentioned crabs the last three seasons and it gives me great pleasure to tell you just in what manner I have treated this particular sort of "crab", as it may help some members of the Club. My cure is to keep it well raked, so as to place the runners in a position to be clipped by the greensmowers in such a manner as to take the seed from the runners and by doing this twice a week, I believe from experience you will kill your Crab GRASS entirely within two or three years.

I feel that I am stating a truth, when I say that I have been less missed at the meetings, than I have missed the meetings. But I promise that in the future I will even make greater efforts to attend and profit by your meetings. With the kindest regards to all members of the Greenkeepers Club.

Martin Greene is planting 15,000 square feet of nursery for greens in the rear of the 17th green at Wanamoissett. Look this over at the October meeting, as it will held there on October 7th.

POSITION wanted by an experienced greenkeeper with plenty of knowledge of economy in maintenance, and up to date methods with the newest of bent grass. Write X. Y. Z., care of the Editor.

## Some Excerpts From FARMERS' BULLETIN 1677

### Lawn Management

After proper attention has been given to starting a lawn, the care that it receives has much to do with its success. In most parts of the country constant attention is necessary to maintain a good lawn.

### Fertilizing

Proper fertilizing is essential to the development and maintenance of a satisfactory turf, but unfortunately this feature is often sadly neglected. As most city lawns are relatively small, the cost of proper fertilizing is not great. One of the first requirements is a liberal supply of available nitrogen. Grasses do not demand so much phosphorus and potash, and since these elements are less soluble than nitrogen they are often present in the soil in sufficient quantities, though to avoid the possibility of a deficiency a fertilizer containing some phosphorous and potash should be applied occasionally. A fertilizer that has given satisfactory results and one that is easily applied is a mixture consisting of 3 parts cottonseed meal and 1 part sulphate of ammonia. Where the cost of cottonseed meal is prohibitive or where it is not available, sewage sludge may be substituted for it. Where neither can be obtained a complete fertilizer high in nitrogen such as 6-8-4 may be used. Any of these should be applied at the rate of 15 to 20 pounds to 1,000 square feet. Experience indicates that the most liberal application of such fertilizers should be made early in the spring, as soon as the danger of hard freezes is over, as such application encourages a vigorous growth of grass that tends to hold the weeds in check. An early fall application of 10 to 15 pounds to 1,000 square feet is also desirable. If the grass shows evidence of lack of vigor in late spring or during the summer, a light application of some quick-acting fertilizer can be made. For this purpose there is nothing superior to sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of soda, but unless applied carefully they are liable to burn the grass. Using 3 pounds of either to 1,000 square feet is sufficient for one application. It is sug-



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gested that they be applied in mixture with good compost consisting of 3 parts of loam and 1 part of finely divided manure or mushroom soil spread evenly over the surface. After the mixture is applied it should be watered thoroughly. Bone meal is extensively used as a fertilizer on established lawns, though it is not particularly desirable for this purpose since it is low in nitrogen and the plant-food elements are slowly available. When used it should be applied in the late fall at the rate of 20 to 25 pounds to 1,000 square feet.

Fine well-rotted manure or mushroom soil applied in the late fall or early winter is beneficial when comparatively free from weed seeds and evenly distributed. It should be sifted or otherwise finely divided, as coarse manure may prove detrimental. High-grade pulverized poultry manure is also quite effective and where available at a reasonable cost can be used advantageously. It should be applied at the rate of 15 or 20 pounds to 1,000 square feet, preferably in the early fall. There are many special brands of lawn fertilizers on the market. While usually effective, they are likely to contain more phosphorus and potash in proportion to nitrogen than the grass requires when applied as surface applications to established lawns; their cost, too, is generally more than the fertilizing ingredients purchased separately.

### Top-Dressing

Most grasses are benefited by an occasional top-dressing with a good compost consisting of about equal parts of manure, sand, and heavy-textured topsoil, as a clay loam. Mushroom soil or a good grade of garden loam is also suitable for this purpose. If the lawn soil consists largely of clay, the top-dressing should contain a higher percentage of sand; if very sandy, it should contain proportionately more clay. The top-dressing should be applied to a depth of one-fourth to three-eighths inch about every two years in the fall. Where the lawn has small pockets and bare places as a result of heaving during the winter and early spring, top-dressing will improve the condition very materially.

### Liming

Probably no one factor in lawn maintenance has been the cause of more

general discussion or has been so widely abused as the use of lime. Not many years ago heavy annual applications of lime were the usual thing. More recently, experiments indicated that certain grasses do better on acid soils; and since general observations indicated that weeds were less troublesome under such conditions, the pendulum swung to the other extreme, and efforts were made to produce extremely acid conditions in the soil in the shortest time possible. Further investigations indicate, as is so often the case, that, everything considered, a course midway between these two extremes is safest and that a soil about neutral in reaction is likely to give the best results. Where soil is known to be acid, or sour, lime should be worked into it before the seed is sown. It is not possible to make a specific recommendation as to the amount, since requirements of different soils vary so widely. In the case of soils of average acidity, 40 to 50 pounds per 1,000 square feet should be ample. In most cases lime used as a top-dressing has not been very effective. Under the impression that it is a fertilizer, many persons make annual applications of lime without adding any plant food. Lime is not a fertilizer, as many seem to think; and even where it is used, the usual application of fertilizer should be made. Additions of lime alone, instead of improving the soil, are often harmful, as it merely encourages the weeds without benefiting the grass. If the grass is not making satisfactory growth after proper fertilizing, however, and if an examination shows the soil to be acid, an application of lime may be beneficial.

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The annual club championship was held during a driving rainstorm on the 9th at the Winchester Country Club, Winchester, Mass. Our new club champion is James McCormack of Unicorn, who scored a fine 86 in such conditions, with Walter Howe of Wellesley runner-up with 87. Net prizes were won by H. C. Darling, Simeoe Braio, and Guy West.

Throughout New England, golf clubs are turning to

<sup>Vc</sup> NEW PROCESS  
**Fairway**

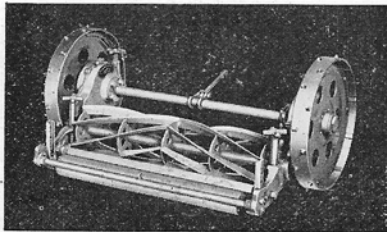
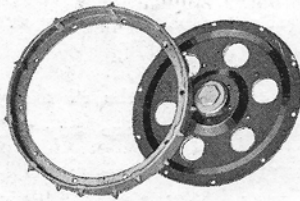
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## *It's The Service That Counts*

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Then a little high powered advertising and special discounts to the first buyers will place a few machines here and there.

The real test comes after a few years of operation of these so-called modern and up-to-date, factory to you classes of machines. Where can you get repair parts? Where can you get repair service by a man or men who have worked on these machines and know the intricate working parts? What will this service cost you? How long do you wait for repairs to come from some distant factory? What is the actual cost adding these excess costs and the loss of use of the machines? Think it over. Don't let \$5.00 on the purchase price of a mower lead you into \$25.00 extra life-time service cost.

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