

The Million Dollar Endowment Fund for the Green Section

The campaign for the Million Dollar Endowment Fund for the Green Section has been put in motion by the United States Golf Association. The formal announcement to this effect was made at a Green Section Meeting held September 24 at Overbrook, near Philadelphia. Full details appear elsewhere in this issue.

Now is the opportunity for everyone who believes in the Green Section to help put it on a permanent basis that will insure its continued efficiency.

October 25 is set aside as a Green Section Tournament Day for trophies given by the United States Golf Association. The primary object is to get the playing golfers acquainted with the Green Section and its work.

The opportunity is here for every Green Section booster to help start the good work. For the good of golf, we expect every man to do his duty.

Injuries to Putting Greens by Careless Mowing

By W. S. HARBAN

It would hardly seem necessary for one to write upon a subject so well understood and so universally practised by all good greenkeepers as that of how to use a mower without causing injury to the turf. Recent observations at many courses, however, clearly indicate there are yet many greenkeepers who, either from ignorance or indifference, permit their greens to be horribly disfigured by careless mowing. The two most common injuries come from scalping the high spots, and from scraping incident to faulty turning of the mower. In either case, this careless mowing will, when several times repeated at the same places, kill the grass roots, and leave large bare areas that are naturally unsightly and exceedingly harmful and annoying in putting. That it is possible to avoid such injuries is well evinced on all well-groomed courses. *It is the province of the greenkeeper to grow, protect and preserve the turf; not to destroy it.*

Let me say just a word or two about the mechanism of the mowers in use today. Scientifically they are as nearly perfect as human ingenuity can make them. They are safeguarded by wheels and rollers in such a manner that the grass can be cut with impunity very closely on true level places and with as much assurance as you trust your safety razor. Like the razor, where the bumps or angles appear, it requires easing over them. This can be done with the mower by slightly depressing the handle, throwing the principal weight of the machine on the rear wheels or roller, thereby easing the knife. This does not necessarily mean that the grass is left longer on the high places but insures that it will not be cut shorter. Never straddle a high point or ridge if it can be avoided.

All mowers of every kind and make are designed to be rigid. Therefore when all the wheels and rollers are on the ground the mower can not be turned without dragging, bruising and scraping the turf or the soil under it. By depressing the handle bar sufficiently to place all the weight on the back rollers, entirely lifting the front of the machine so as to be free, the rollers are made to turn easily without the slightest injury to the turf. I have been asked many times how to mow one of the modern built-up or island greens when the entire surface has to be cut to the edge of the banks,

and at the same time keep control of the mower. Very often these outer edges are more or less undulated; consequently they require most careful handling of the machine. The only way I know that a man can properly control a mower is by having his hands on the crossbar of the handle, and in order to do this he must have room to stand. I have always advocated first making several circular cuts around all greens, whether built up or not, to preserve the lines, if for nothing else. With these island greens, four or five such cuts will give ample room to cross-cut from any direction.

If the few simple hints described above are carried out in practice we will not see many mangled greens hereafter.

Named Strains of Creeping Bent

When in 1916 the first tests were undertaken of individual strains of bent grasses, about one hundred different selections were made. Each of these selections was given a number and a record was preserved of its origin, characteristics, date of selection, etc. In 1921 some of the best of these selections were distributed to a few golf clubs, each under its appropriate number. A year later it seemed desirable that the more promising ones be given names. To keep the record of each strain numbered and named by us, the following data are supplied. These are the only bent strains named by the Green Section up to date.

Washington Bent. No. 02986. A creeping bent selected in 1919 from No. 4 green at the Washington Golf and Country Club, near Rosslyn, Va. At the time the selection was made, the piece of turf selected was only slightly affected by brown-patch, although nearly the entire green was brown.

Metropolitan Bent. No. 02809. A creeping bent from a piece of turf sent in for identification in 1917 by a seed firm in New York City.

Virginia Bent. No. 02987. A creeping bent selected in 1919 from No. 18 green at the Washington Golf and Country Club, near Rosslyn, Va. The selection, at the time it was made, was found to be strongly resistant to brown-patch, but not immune.

Columbia Bent. No. 02529. A creeping bent selected in 1916 from Columbia Country Club, near Washington, D. C. This is the strain used to plant No. 9 green at the Columbia Country Club.

Vermont Bent. No. 02882. A creeping bent received in 1917, without any special data, from Middlebury, Vt.

Acme Bent. No. 02541. A velvet bent selected in 1919 from the grounds of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Revere Bent. No. 02511. A seaside bent from the wet salt meadows at Revere Beach, Mass., where it occurs in large areas.

Some U. S. Golf Association Decisions on the Rules of Golf

QUESTION.—Please advise us in reference to distribution of prizes in qualification. On Saturday our club had qualifying round for five sixteens medal play handicap net scores. Because a large number of our members go away over week-ends during this season of the year, we allowed them the privilege of qualifying any day during the week previous by signifying their intention to a member of the Committee. Now the question arises, Are these players eligible to win either of prizes offered, low gross and net?