

been asked by those in charge of other courses how we produced and how we care for the greens. Our reply has been that we have simply carried out to the letter the program outlined by the Green Section.

Our most difficult problem was to organize in such a way and with such personnel that your recommendations would be carried out in regard to close, daily cutting at all seasons, frequent topdressing, and the use of ammonium sulfate, only, as a fertilizer. Our observation of other courses having bent greens that are extremely slow, fluffy, rough and with a grain that causes the ball to jump when putted, is that they do not cut closely enough, especially in hot weather, and that they simply will not topdress often enough. Our only trouble has been from chickweed, which we have dug out by hand, and brown-patch, which has not yet harmed the quality of the putting surface, although raising havoc with the uniform green color that we enjoyed at the start of the season. We intend to tackle the brown-patch problem next year with whatever mercury compound you advise is the best, as the result of your experiments.

You will understand from what we have said how eagerly we look forward to the receipt of your Bulletins. The fact that they are conservative, and are written from an engineering viewpoint, containing no half-baked suggestions, gives us great confidence in what you advocate as the best practice. We feel sure that you can not do better than to continue to hammer home the superiority of creeping bent greens, and the necessity of caring for them in the manner that you recommend.

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Address at the Atlanta Athletic Club, Atlanta, Ga., by Mr. James D. Standish, Jr.,  
Member of Executive Committee and Chairman of Public Links  
Section of the United States Golf Association

Mr. Standish's opening remarks touched on the early history of golf and its slow development to its present form, the recent tremendous increase in its popularity among all classes and in all sections of this country, and after referring to the organization in 1920 by the United States Golf Association of its Public Links Section, he continued:

"The last time I was in Atlanta was in 1918. I enjoyed myself very much then. I didn't have any idea then I was going to become connected with municipal golf, because, at that time municipal golf was very little known; it was confined to a very few cities. The principal cities at that time that knew golf in a public course way were Chicago, New York, Boston, and Toledo. The game originated in Boston. Mr. George Wright, whom you know was one of the founders of the sporting goods firm of Wright & Ditson, came from the old country in the 90's. He brought some clubs and a few balls along with him and secured the permission of the city to play the game in Franklin Park and he gathered around him a number of friends who played the game also. After playing two years they were barred from the park because it was dangerous. Later the game became known all over the country and they got permission to play again. That was the origin of the game of golf as a municipal course game in this country. It developed next at Van Courtlandt Park in New York and went on to Chicago. Chicago at the present time has upwards of 20 public courses to my knowledge. There are probably 30 by this

time. I can't keep up with them, but they are building around the outside of the city in the forest reserve system, a series of 25 courses which will stretch all around the city, and will provide facilities for all who want to play, at a moderate fee.

"You have an exceptional opportunity here in the South, it seems to me, to develop the game along these lines. In the first place, the revenue from your courses—and revenue is always important in a city project—is almost double that of the North, because you can play the year around here. There is no let-up in the amount of playing during the year. For that reason you will find the courses will become more than self-supporting. As a matter of fact, in the city of Buffalo they saw fit to float an issue of municipal bonds to the extent of a million dollars for recreational facilities. Eight hundred thousand dollars of that was devoted to the purchase of the country club there. It was a situation similar to Birmingham, Ala., where the city recently paid \$700,000.00 for the Birmingham Country Club, their 18-hole course—for a municipal golf course. They realized the fact that the revenue from the course would far exceed the interest charges on these bonds and also take care of the course, and they are making a profit on the proposition on that basis.

"You will find that there is no difficulty whatsoever in inducing players to go to the courses. It has been found advisable in a number of cities to charge different rates according to the time of day. Your fee here on the courses you have are at present nominally 25 cents. It has been found practical to charge as high as a dollar or even a dollar and a half for players who want to go and play in the early part of the afternoon, leaving the twilight hours for the man who comes out after work, in the 25 or 50-cent class. The man who can take an afternoon off is generally able to pay a dollar or a dollar and a half for his recreation, and in that way more revenue still can be brought in. But you will find there is no trouble in keeping your courses crowded.

"Now, there are two ways of going about this proposition of public courses. One is to go out and buy your land and build your course on a permanent basis, building it so extensively that you know it will last for years. That is the way Buffalo has done, as I told you, and Birmingham, also, I understand. The other way is to build on.

"I find that you have a very desirable site here for additional facilities in Candler Park. Mr. Paine, Mr. Keller, Mr. Jennings and myself went out this morning and looked over both courses that you have now, and also Candler Park. You can put in 9 holes at Candler Park, but, gentlemen, I am perfectly satisfied in my own mind that Candler Park and Piedmont Park and the Key Course will never prove adequate for the golf the people will wish to play in Atlanta in the future. If I were in Atlanta I know I should devote all my energy towards urging that the profits from those three courses be set aside and that sometime in the future property be purchased somewhere just outside of Atlanta, or as close as possible, which would provide still further golf facilities. You will find there is plenty of demand for it.

"It is an interesting comparison which some of you perhaps are not familiar with, that you can provide for a great many more people in the space of a golf links than you can by providing an equal number of either tennis courts or baseball fields. You can get foursomes

of players, more of them in 50 acres of a golf course than you can in the same acreage devoted to either tennis or baseball. I spent a little time figuring that out, so I happen to know.

"It might interest you to know a little bit about the type of players who have played in the national championships in the past. The first championship we held was played at Toledo. We didn't limit the entries in any way. We had 160 in all. It would have delighted all your hearts to have seen the crowd of fellows that got together at the first tee. There was every type of man imaginative from the immaculately clothed to the working man who played in his suspenders. I remember one little fellow who came in there in a pair of overalls and he didn't know what some of it was all about, but we have managed these tournaments in such a way as to carry the gospel of good golf and the rules of the game to the men who have played in the tournaments.

"The first championship was won by Eddie Held. Eddie was a boy who was making his way through high school, trying to save enough to go through college, but he thought enough of golf to take the time off from his work to come to Toledo, and he won the championship. Since, he has become a member of a club and is a successful business man.

"The second championship was won by Richard Walsh of New York. Dick held a position then with the Wall Street Journal. He has the same position today. He has played in every championship. He is one of the characters of the championships. I hope he will always remain a public links golfer, because everybody likes to have him there.

"Joe Coble was a waiter in Philadelphia, he was the next champion, and I understand he had to hire a substitute to take his place where he was working, at time and a half fee while he was playing in the championship. Since the championship he has turned professional, and that is one of the desirable results of this public links championship, that it provides players both for the professional ranks and for the private clubs.

"The fourth winner was Ray McAuliffe of Buffalo; he was a salesman for the Mentholatum Company. He has turned professional since. As a matter of fact, he is the professional at their new public course I told you about a little while ago.

"The last champion was Lester Bolstead, of Minneapolis, a high school boy. He intends to enter the University of Minnesota and work his way through, but that shows the class of players in our championships. I am sure you will find that the citizen who uses the public links will be more desirable. It will provide recreation for all in the most desirable form. It is a gentle sort of game; a game that a man has to be a sportsman to play, and it develops all the most desirable qualities in a man.

"You have been very kind to ask me to come down here, and I don't know that I have added anything to the remarks Mr. Keeler and Mr. Maddox have made. There may be something about the cost of upkeep, etc., but I am not familiar enough with your equipment here to know about that.

"If you have any particular questions, I would be very glad to answer them."

QUESTION: "May I ask you a question, Mr. Standish? How, in your judgment, can the municipal golfers of Atlanta best be organized

to express to the city government their sentiment on the question of golf? In other words, how can the opinion of the general public best be expressed? There must be some way of getting organized expression from the municipal golfers that the city government will understand."

MR. STANDISH: "I should suggest that you circulate a petition among the players who use your public links courses. If that petition were circulated and signed by a large number of persons and handed to Mr. Maddox and Mr. Paine, I am sure that they would see that it was presented to the Council in the proper way, and I am sure it would bear weight. I don't know enough about the workings of your city government here to say any more than that.

"I should like to say this; I hope in the future Atlanta will find the opportunity to send players to the national championships. They will come back with a great deal of enthusiasm, and help materially in any plans you may have for the future."

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## Water Hazards

By Maynard M. Metcalf

Water hazards are of value only as mental hazards. As such they are legitimate, but they should be used sparingly. One or two is enough on any course. It is important to have one so that players may become accustomed to playing over water and may overcome the fear and uncertainty such a hazard causes. Otherwise they would fall down on other courses when playing over water.

One great purpose of hazards is to inspire a player in trouble to rise to super-golf and overcome the difficulty. A playable hazard is a spur to special effort and overcoming it gives a satisfaction that compensates for the initial disappointment of getting into the trouble. Without numerous such hazards a course is a tame affair. But a ball in a water hazard is generally unplayable and must be lifted—a depressing rather than exhilarating thing.

Of course the chief purpose of hazards, as of the rough, is to require accuracy of play in both direction and distance in order to avoid them. The ability to place one's ball with a good degree of accuracy is of the greatest importance whether on the tee or through the fairway and especially in approaching. Hazards, both natural and artificial, are used to emphasize accuracy and as accuracy is of most importance near the green, it is here that one finds hazards most abundantly supplied on well constructed courses.

Of course water hazards are as good as any other from the standpoint of penalizing inaccuracy. But the fact that they are unplayable would properly interdict their use were it not for their value as mental hazards. Their presence in considerable number on any course is a defect, really a serious defect.

Water hazards may often be so treated as to add to the beauty of a course. This is equally true whether the hazard be a pond or a stream. But if the pond or stream is off the fairway, outside the playing area for any but an egregiously bad shot, then it can be used far more effectively to beautify the course. Planting along its edges can be far more free and with thought only of the beauty.