

Last year the Riverton Country Club had a force of 18 boys weeding the greens during August. This year they have a force of 4 boys, and the weeding is being adequately handled. The greenkeeper, Mr. Charles Ewers, attributes the decreased weed growth, the decidedly smaller weeding personnel and the consequently appreciable financial saving to the extensive use of arsenate of lead in all topdressing applied during the past year.

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

A ball has been driven from the tee and apparently lost. A provisional ball has been put in play and only one stroke played with it. After one stroke had been played with the provisional ball the original ball was found. Has the player the privilege to cease playing the provisional ball and revert to the original ball, bearing in mind that the player only played one stroke with the provisional ball?

Decision.—The reason for playing a provisional ball is to save delay. If a player's ball seems to him to have lodged in territory where it might be lost or unplayable, he is entitled to play a provisional ball. This must be done, however, before he leaves the tee. A player is entitled to play a provisional ball until it is opposite or past the spot where the original ball is presumed to be, no matter how many shots this takes. He then must search for his original ball for five minutes or until it is found. If it is lost he must continue play with the provisional ball. If it is found the provisional ball must be picked up, unless the player considers his original ball unplayable, in which case he may continue play with the provisional ball.

Kindly advise the ruling of the U. S. G. A. with reference to a ball lost near to a water hazard. Is it assumed to be in the hazard if not found?

Decision.—If it is reasonably certain that the ball entered the hazard it may be treated under Rule 27. Local committees should see to it that the water hazards are marked with stakes so that the limits may be clearly defined, leaving little doubt as to where the ball ultimately came to rest. They should also have the grass cut so that it would be very difficult to lose a ball outside the limits of this hazard.

Drainage will not only dry and warm land that is wet and cold, but it has a marked effect upon the physical structure of the soil. Clays are usually very plastic and sticky when wet, very hard when dry, and permit the percolation of water very slowly, if at all. After drainage the same soils become looser, forming into small grains or crumbs. The granular structure gives large pore spaces, through which the water passes downward by gravity more freely, and breaks the continuity of the tiny capillary tubes by which the moisture moves upward as evaporation dries the ground surface. Therefore the drained clay neither remains saturated so long nor dries out so thoroughly as before drainage, but retains a film of capillary water about each soil grain, while the gravitational water passes out and is replaced by air. This is the soil condition necessary for a healthy growth of the usual cultivated crops.