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Annual Report of the Chairman of the United States Golf Association Green Section for the Year 1927

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U. S. G. A. GREEN SECTION:

Heretofore the annual report of the Green Section of the United States Golf Association has been rendered by that body as a separate corporation. On the recommendation of the Executive Committee made at the annual meeting held in Pittsburgh in January, 1927, the Green Section as such was dissolved. Since that time the work of the Green Section has been managed by a committee of the United States Golf Association known as the Green Section Committee. Thus far the new arrangement has worked out satisfactorily to all concerned and there is no apparent reason why it should not continue to do so indefinitely provided the officials maintain the same friendly spirit toward, and interest in, the work as at present.

Last year we reported the serious and irreparable loss of Dr. C. V. Piper, and the temporary loss, through illness, of Dr. R. A. Oakley. Unfortunately Doctor Oakley is still compelled to be away from Washington, but it is most gratifying to report that he is so much improved in health that he expects to return to us sometime this year. In the meantime he is just as keenly interested in the welfare of the Green Section as though he were with us in person.

Again it is our misfortune to report a further loss through the resignation, to accept a more lucrative position, on December 15, 1927, of Mr. George T. Cunningham, who has borne his share of the duties of the Green Section in a most satisfactory and efficient manner. The loss of his services and counsel at this time will be very keenly felt. However, it seems that the loss of men through better offers from other sources or for other reasons is a situation with which the Green Section may always expect to be confronted, as many of the clubs are financially able to make very tempting offers.

In spite of its handicaps the Green Section has completed its seventh year in a fairly satisfactory manner. Very gratifying progress has been made in brown-patch control and in the control of the Japanese beetle and other insects that infest turf. The discovery that snow-mold, often called "winterkill," is due to a fungous disease that may be controlled by fall applications of certain mercuric compounds, is an accomplishment of no small value to courses in the Northern States. Fertilizer experiments have shed further light on the treatments that will give the most satisfactory results and reduce the weed growth to a minimum.

That the work of the Green Section is becoming more widely recognized is evidenced by the number of articles dealing with some phase of our work, that have appeared in golfing magazines as well

as the press, which, although often exaggerated in some respects, are accurate in others.

MEMBERSHIP

The United States Golf Association clubs receiving Green Section service total 1,012, as of November 30, 1927, as compared with 940 Green Section members on November 30, 1926. The number of former Green Section member clubs which had never been either active or allied U. S. G. A. clubs and which are still carried on our mailing lists and receive Green Section service as well total 174.

FINANCES

In spite of many unforeseen items of expense, the Green Section has operated well within its budget. The total appropriated for the current year was \$22,954.58. The total expended for the year amounted to \$21,139.34, which included \$16,239.34 for expenses for the Washington office and \$4,900 for experiment station work. The budget provided \$500 for experiments in the Chicago District, but as we did not succeed in getting work established there this amount was not expended. Unforeseen items of expense included payment of the November, 1926, issue of The Bulletin during the current fiscal year, and reprinting of the January, February and March, 1927, issues. Other unforeseen expenses included the Greenkeepers' meeting in Washington, and The Bulletin Index. The Green Section office in Washington has collected and forwarded to the New York office \$3,414.25, which represents the payment for such classes of Green Section service as services to daily fee courses; foreign clubs; individual Bulletin subscriptions; the sale of back numbers of The Bulletin and binders; refunds of amount expended on seed analyses; travel refund because of services to clubs; and unexpected travel allotments. A detailed financial statement covering the work of the Green Section for the year ending November 30, 1927, has been published in the Report of the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association.

THE BULLETIN

Our complete Bulletin mailing list has increased from approximately 2,600 on December 3, 1926, to more than 3,200 on December 1, 1927. This includes 1,012 clubs that are members of the United States Golf Association; 21 privately owned or daily fee courses; 53 municipal golf courses; 431 individual subscriptions from clubs, architects, seedhouses, implement dealers, etc.; 249 complimentary subscriptions; 31 clubs located outside the United States that received Green Section Service, of which 28 are Canadian clubs; and 37 foreign subscriptions exclusive of Canada.

TURF EXPERIMENTS AT ARLINGTON FARM

Intensive studies on brown-patch control, fertilizer experiments and other treatments relating to turf maintenance have continued at Arlington Farm. Considerable attention is being given to the selection of creeping bent, in the hope that eventually a strain may be found that is practically immune to brown-patch. Due to the increased interest in velvet bent for putting greens in the Northern States, selections of this grass are being tried out, and plans are

under way to determine the best treatment for this species of bent grass. During the past fall many of the old plots that have outlived their usefulness were torn up and the work rearranged. Areas have been sown to Rhode Island bent, South German bent, seaside bent, and red fescue, which are to be utilized for experiments to determine what treatments give the best turf where these grasses are used.

COOPERATIVE EXPERIMENTAL WORK

The cooperative experiments have been continued at New Brunswick, N. J.; Manhattan, Kans.; Lincoln, Nebr.; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Gainesville, Fla. For the most part there has been a decided improvement in the character of the work at these stations, due to a better knowledge gained through experience of the methods of handling the work. Interest in the work is increasing at all the stations, and the authorities are anxious that it be continued, as the turf experiments have been of material assistance in answering inquiries from golf clubs on turf grass maintenance. Money was appropriated for establishing work in the Chicago District, but so far we have not been able to make the necessary arrangements, although we are hopeful that this plan can be put into effect during 1928. Last fall plots were established in cooperation with the Missouri Botanical Gardens under the supervision of one of the Green Section men. This year it is the hope of the United States Golf Association Green Section to establish experiments at some point in California.

GREENKEEPERS' CONVENTION AT WASHINGTON

The first meeting of greenkeepers fostered by the United States Golf Association was held at Washington on August 29, 1927. More than 150 representatives from various parts of the country were present. The morning was devoted to the inspection of turf experiments at Arlington Farm and the afternoon to visiting several golf courses in the vicinity of Washington. Following dinner in the evening, some time was spent in an informal discussion devoted largely to the advantages and disadvantages of *Poa annua* and velvet bent. As a whole those in attendance expressed much satisfaction with the convention and suggested that it be an annual event.

THE SERVICE BUREAU

Correspondence with the United States Golf Association member clubs has continued to occupy considerable attention. Many samples of seed, soil, and fertilizer have been submitted for analysis or for an expression of opinion as to their probable value. There has been personal service by visits to clubs, but due to a limited personnel such visits have been far less frequent than desirable. This is a branch of the service that could be enlarged to the advantage not only of the clubs receiving such service but indirectly to the Green Section. Local service bureaus and green sections have for the most part kept in close contact and have sought advice on many questions.

THE GREEN SECTION ABROAD

Interest in the work of the Green Section is increasing abroad, particularly in England, South Africa, and New Zealand. We have considerable correspondence and several reports indicating the excel-

lent results that have been obtained through information contained in The Bulletin. Some of the experiences have been published from time to time. It is a matter of pride to the Green Section that the results of our work have been helpful to and are so much appreciated by golfers in far countries.

THE FUTURE

The opinion has been voiced that the turf problems are now pretty well solved and that we should look to some other line of endeavor. However, if experiences with other plants in the past can be regarded as any sort of a criterion we are far from a solution of all turf problems. It is true that we can not expect such striking developments as during these first few years that the Green Section has been in existence, but new diseases and new insect pests are likely to appear to make life more difficult for the greenkeeper. Furthermore, much remains to be accomplished in the selection of grasses and in treatments that will give best results. It is our belief that work along these lines will be worthy of attention for an indefinite period. It would be very desirable however if we were in a position to offer better advice on architecture, construction and drainage. The drainage problem is of prime importance and one that is often overlooked. If we could enlist the assistance of an expert in drainage we would undoubtedly be rendering the clubs an invaluable service. All these phases of the work require additional funds, which means more members, and to obtain an increased membership we should be in a position to give better service to a larger number of clubs.

H. L. WESTOVER,
Acting Chairman.

Feeding Versus Seeding Turf

By Mr. Norman L. Mattice, Manager, Pine Valley Golf Club

Last year I took charge of the Pine Valley Golf Course with the greens and fairways in a most discouraging condition. By September first these greens and fairways were covered with a strong, vigorous turf having an excellent putting surface. The answer to this rapid development is found in the subject on which I have been asked to speak, "Feeding Versus Seeding Turf."

In looking over the situation, it did not take me long to arrive at the conclusion that all that was needed to correct this condition was proper feeding of the turf already on the greens, which would enable it to stool out and thicken up, rather than by heavy seeding which had been customary. From my study of the United States Golf Association Green Section Bulletins and from practical experience, I believed this could be accomplished by topdressing with a mixture that would retard too rapid evaporation of moisture; provide a balanced plant food ration for the turf; kill and prevent the growth of weeds; and destroy the Japanese beetle grub.

As I had been told by the previous manager that it was almost impossible to get topsoil on account of prohibitive freight rates, I decided to make use of what Pine Valley itself had to offer in the