

are very good at the present time. The grass is very promising, certainly in the northern belt, where velvet bent thrives. I personally like velvet bent very much better than creeping bent. The color is more pleasing and I think the texture is very much better for putting surface.

Here is a practical illustration of the worth of THE BULLETIN to all of us. Major Jones wrote an article, which was published in the August number, giving his experience with the propagation of velvet bent stolons; in the September number a man from Massachusetts wrote that he had tried the same experiment with gratifying success; and in the October number there was another instance of the same thing. There is your value of THE BULLETIN in disseminating knowledge. There were three men, working independently without any knowledge of each other's work, all to the same purpose, and through the dissemination of such knowledge all of us are benefited. The growth of this Section is exceedingly gratifying.

I am informed that in 1921 there were 287 members of the Green Section. Today there are about 1,000. This idea has spread to Canada and England. So, gentlemen, to Mr. Whitney and his associates whose wisdom and vision conceived and organized this section; to Dr. Piper and Dr. Oakley, whose driving force and initiative and work brought this child up to lusty manhood; and to this band of devoted workers, of whom Mr. Westover is one in Washington, who are carrying on this work, every golf club in this country, every golfer in this country, and every green chairman and all greenkeepers owe a profound debt of gratitude.

How the Green Section Can be Helped by Clubs, Green Committee Chairman and Greenkeepers*

By Sherrill Sherman, Yahnundasis Golf Club, Utica, N. Y.

I just want to break in a little on my prepared talk to bear testimony, in addition to Mr. McKnight's, to the success we have had at Utica in the use of velvet bent on our greens from the vegetative method. In 1922 we did as Mr. McKnight did—we went out in the fairgreen and picked the best looking pieces that we could find. Sometimes the men were not as careful as they might have been, with the result that we had some splendid patches of fescue which did not do much spreading. The velvet bent spread and produced beautiful turf, and I quite agree with Mr. McKnight that THE BULLETIN disseminated that knowledge following the article of Mr. Jones. That is why I am taking this opportunity to bear the testimony of Utica that it is possible to produce turf from velvet bent by the vegetative method.

In thinking over the subjects that I might be able to discuss in an intelligible manner, it occurred to me that the picture has shown too much of the help that the Green Section is giving to all of us and that we had lost sight somewhat of the importance of the assistance that we can give the Green Section. After hearing the splendid address showing clearly the completeness of the service rendered by the Green Section, I am more than pleased that my choice of a subject

*Address given at annual meeting of the United States Golf Association Green Section at New York City, January 6, 1928.

will show, I hope, how we can properly repay the Green Section for the results accomplished for the golf clubs of this country.

I realize that I will undoubtedly bring nothing new or startling to your attention, but it has always taken much repetition to make even the most obvious truth accepted. I will hope that by giving some suggestions I can bring them to your attention forcibly enough to accomplish something. All suggestions will not fit all persons, but surely we can, at least in some way, put our shoulders to the wheel and give a push that will keep our "band wagon of greenkeeping progress" rolling steadily forward without any stops or even hesitation in its continued advance for our own good. I speak of our own good as it relates to golf and greenkeeping. This fine attendance this morning is concrete evidence that we have an interest in other things concerning golf beside playing the game. Golf, with its great capital investment and all its ramifications, has truly become a big business and so we must give the best in us for its advancement and for the adequate support of our leaders.

Today we meet especially to hear and consider these problems and their solutions applying to the physical upkeep of our grounds, how better methods can be used, how to avoid mistakes, and to learn how much can be accomplished by cooperation. Having at times been tempted to allow my pen to run away with itself and so appear in print, I have been really surprised how widespread the interest is in our problems as shown by the far-distant localities from which I have received letters of comment.

What support does the Green Section want or expect from its followers? The answer is short and two words tell the whole story—money and interest. We all know that it takes money to give us working material with which to work out our ideas, and many an inventor has sold a large share in his invention to obtain the funds to continue his experimental work to a final triumph. Do not get worried when I speak of money, for there is to be no personal appeal or touch on my part, but at your leisure I hope those who are here in person and those readers of *THE BULLETIN* who are absent will take these suggestions to heart and let the Green Section profit thereby.

When Mr. Westover so kindly asked me to speak at the annual meeting of the Green Section it occurred to me that, being a member of the Advisory Committee, I might speak more freely in asking for help than the modesty of those in active control would allow. It was for this reason that I chose my subject. As you may well surmise, it will not be technical or filled with practical hints for easier or better greenkeeping, but you will agree that full support by all, to the extent of our abilities, will enable the Green Section to accomplish much more.

Our problem, if problem it can be called, should be viewed comprehensively as a whole and then divided into its constituent parts. I shall therefore take as the first heading "What Are the Needs of the Green Section?" and give as an answer "Money and Interest"; and for the second heading, "Helps, What, When and How?" If I am able in a clear and simple way to list our possible methods of helping the Green Section, and if by so doing each one of those present as well as the absent readers of *THE BULLETIN* are enabled to assist in a way which would not burden the individual or club, then I shall feel that I have been of help, if only in a small way.

To digress a moment from my subject, I desire to mention Dr. Piper and his value, especially to THE BULLETIN, and it is said with no thought of invidious comparison, but he certainly had the knack of being able to get adequate contributions to THE BULLETIN. If we desire more articles of interest, and if we comment because of what may appear to us as their scarcity as we read THE BULLETIN monthly, the blame comes back primarily upon ourselves, for we, with our large numbers, voluntarily should send in contributions to keep the editors busy editing rather than pleading with us to do our part for the success of THE BULLETIN.

Just think how interesting it would be if every person who attended the summer convention at Washington had written his personal impression of the work being carried on there and of the meeting, of course with the thought that the editorial shears be allowed full sway in putting such letters into proper shape for publishing in THE BULLETIN, emphasizing the high points of each communication.

I might say that the greens at the Garden City Golf Club in 1908, by their splendidness at a time when good greens were decidedly the exception, aroused in me an interest in the greenkeeping side of golf that has continued unabated. That year I returned to Utica with the desire that our greens should be improved so that they would approach the Garden City standard, and I believe that I can truthfully say, from the favorable comment that has been expressed by the rank and file of golfers, as well as those especially equipped with knowledge, both amateur and professional, that this hope has been quite well realized. And what a help in those days would the present Green Section have been to us who were out of touch, except occasionally, with the better things in greenkeeping.

Since through the clubs must come primarily the answer to the first part of our Green Section problem of needed help, that of adequate financial support, so from the green committee chairmen and the greenkeepers must come the needed interest. With our work thus divided it is now proper to proceed to show how each can do his part.

In view of the fact that the Green Section was established for the direct benefit of the golf clubs of the United States, whether members of the United States Golf Association or not, the least that the clubs themselves can do, with their individual members and the clubs' greenkeeping organizations, is to give their whole-hearted support. The Green Section has no axe to grind nor individual product to boost, but is interested solely in the good that can be accomplished for the benefit of the clubs. In words that perhaps are somewhat slangy, take the position of being a "booster." We are not all fitted with scientific minds, but we have eyes and should with a little care note anything new or out of the ordinary. Unquestionably some of the greatest advances of civilization have come from chance remarks or observations which have been developed by those of scientific or inventive minds. Since the Green Section was organized, the great wisdom of combining science with practical work in the field has yearly become more clearly demonstrated.

As a practical matter of dollars and time, it is not possible for the scientists of the Green Section to personally observe everything at the different clubs. Trained men are not available, nor have the

funds been sufficient to finance all such trips. When visiting another club, check things over and give, if you can, any helpful suggestions in a friendly manner, for even friendly criticism sometimes seems like stepping on one's toes, and the pleasanter the manner the more likely such suggestions will be gladly received. As is likely, if the knowledge that you are passing along came from the Green Section, be sure to give the Green Section credit, for the Green Section is really but a reservoir of knowledge which we all have helped to fill. Since none of our golf courses are perfect or perfectly cared for, sometimes a quite evident fault to an outsider is passed by daily by our organization. Since local conditions may be such that the same results cannot be obtained as at your home course, be not too sure of yourself in expressing an opinion. As I look back at some years of greenkeeping experience, with possibly a local favorable reputation in accomplishing results, I am greatly impressed with this fact—that nature made things easy for me and that many others, much more efficient, have not obtained due credit because the natural conditions under which they are working are extremely difficult. As we visit the different clubs and converse open-mindedly about our mutual problems, surely a feeling of friendly neighborhoodness will be created which cannot help but result to the good of our guiding force, the Green Section.

Now, as the saying is, "let's get down to brass tacks" and see just what is the help that can best be given by each of us to the Green Section. I shall first enumerate with possibly a few words of comment what the clubs can and should do.

First, every golf or country club in the United States should belong to the Green Section, and I believe that no matter how small the income or green expenditure, the item of dues to the United States Golf Association is one thing that should be included in every budget. No matter how small the yearly expense for upkeep or how simple the problems to be solved, the Green Section Bulletin or its officials can save a club money. Therefore, as a club becomes a member it should exert every effort to induce other clubs with which it comes in contact to join. This effort for increased membership in the Green Section applies not only to individual clubs, but even more so to every district, state or greater territorial association to pledge itself to a 100 per cent membership of all clubs in its territory. If the club is so blind to its own good as to refuse to join, then get some individual member of that club to give the club a membership, which would be of more benefit to that club than any prize he might donate for club competition, and in the long run would bring to him greater thanks from the club membership.

Secondly, when clubs are financially able they should, I believe, put in their budget a contribution to the Green Section in proportion to their wealth. In doing this it would be but following the general procedure of life where the strong and able must do more than their exact share to offset the failure of certain clubs, through niggardliness or financial straits, to bear their fair share of the burden.

Thirdly, when clubs are composed of individuals of means it is perfectly proper for such individuals to make donations to the Green Section. By such support cheaper golf can be provided by spreading the knowledge of more economical upkeep, thereby making golf available to many more players. It has become a fact beyond successful

dispute or denial that of all games played or enjoyed by man or woman, none does or can give as much physical and mental benefit, over as long a period of years, as golf, and the benefit of cheaper golf applies to the cost of upkeep for both private clubs and municipal courses.

When I make this fourth suggestion I may be getting the Green Section into trouble, for I am not aware of the cost of THE BULLETIN, but if a large number of individual golfers would subscribe to it the benefit would be two-fold, by furnishing reliable information to the subscriber and by increased revenue to the Green Section. Surely a considerable increase in the circulation should be profitable in that the overhead cost per copy would be reduced materially. A large body of golfers would become conversant with proper greenkeeping methods, thus not only being in position to check on, but also to assist in the work of their green committee. Unconsciously they would help in many ways, and would form a large potential supply of at least partially informed men from whom new committee chairmen could be chosen. This should be to the advantage of the individual club, for trained men are more efficient than those that must learn as they go.

That clubs should pay for special service rendered is, I believe, self-evident and fundamentally sound. If payment were made of at least the actual expenses of the expert who comes to advise the club regarding its special troubles, a larger force of trained workers could be available. In addition to the payment of the traveling expenses I believe that at least a nominal charge should be made, the amount depending upon membership of the club. This charge should be readily and promptly paid by the benefited club. The average club, either on the course or in the clubhouse, spends foolishly or actually wastes yearly much more than the cost would likely be for such a visit.

Besides the payment of expenses and services, a further sum should be sent to the Green Section in some just proportion to the money saved by following any special advice. I question whether there is a single club in the brown-patch belt that has not saved in a single year many times the yearly cost of dues in fighting that dreaded green disease. Furthermore, by following the recommendations of the Green Section, it is now possible to keep the greens in play continuously for the benefit of the members of the club. Without this knowledge many clubs would have had greens either out of play, in an attempt to restore the turf, or else very unsatisfactory greens.

The ways suggested, I believe, show a number of reasonable methods by which golf clubs of the country can help the Green Section very effectively by largely increasing its income, without placing an undue burden on any club.

Now comes the green committee chairman's opportunity to help. No club member who is not willing to benefit by the accumulated knowledge of the Green Section should accept this most important position in a club. In other words, he should be convinced even before he assumes the responsibilities of his duties that the usage of that knowledge is of paramount importance, the biggest thing about his new obligations. Each retiring chairman should make it his duty to see that his successor be fully informed of the intelligent help available from the Green Section. The new chairman, being con-

vinced himself of its fundamental merit, should sell the idea of the Green Section and its methods to his greenkeeper, and through the greenkeeper to the entire working force. It has been said that one can lead a horse to water but cannot make him drink, but if one were clever enough to persuade the horse he is thirsty, the drinking would follow most naturally. So if the reasonableness and necessity of following exactly a certain method was properly explained, the working force would follow directions and avoid damage. I believe that a green committee chairman is entitled to and should include in his budget as a necessary expense an amount sufficient to have his greenkeeper, and in a large club the assistant, attend all meetings within a reasonable distance of the Green Section or associate district green sections. Probably in no way can his greenkeeper benefit more than in the interchange of ideas from contact with fellow-workers and those who know and are able to explain to him the solution of his problems. I would go so far as to say that it would be but a slight return for all the time spent if the green committee chairman were also sent as the guest of his club. Having spent a number of years as Chairman of the Green Committee at the Yahnundasis Golf Club, I believe I am qualified to speak as to how much time is required if justice is done to the work. While the member does not seek for reward, unfortunately bricks seem to come his way oftener than bouquets, and the privilege of attending these meetings with expenses paid would be a graceful gesture of appreciation.

Perhaps a few of you may remember that a year ago I wrote briefly of those qualifications that should be considered in selecting a green committee chairman. A club that succeeds in getting a member with such qualifications to accept the position is fortunate indeed. It is almost needless to remark, yet I feel I should emphasize the value of such a man in furthering the work of the Green Section. He would be continuously passing on the good word about the Green Section, not only to club members and the greenkeeping organization of his own club, but also to those of other clubs with whom he comes in contact. Such efforts on his part surely would result in great good.

And now we come to the aid that can be rendered the Green Section by the greenkeepers and their force, the practical men who are on the job—one might say those who are in the front line trenches, to whom it seems as if some one of the forces of nature were always waging war against their work, as if nature delighted to be on its bad behavior. When I speak last of the help that can be given by the greenkeeping organization I by no means desire you to think I consider it the least important because mentioned last. It is of the greatest value, for it is the men actually doing the work whose keen observations mean real progress. A method, no matter how sound, can be utterly defeated if the men using it are careless or uninformed, just as without doubt improvements will be introduced by the careful observer. As we all know, conditions vary widely on practically every golf course in the country, even from hole to hole, green to green, so methods that are successful in one place may be a failure elsewhere. Here is where the greenkeeper can be of value in determining the reason for such lack of success.

The pioneer work has been done, yet there is much more to be accomplished. There are still numerous clubs and their members

who are not familiar with the new methods that are so helpful in greenkeeping. If a new green committee chairman is open-minded, progressive and intelligent, and properly informed by his predecessor, the first thing that he should do, after becoming acquainted with his organization, is to ascertain their knowledge of the Green Section. If the Green Section is unknown to the greenkeeper he should be properly informed regarding the work of the Green Section and urged to adopt methods that experiments have shown to give best results.

Greenkeepers should conduct more individual experiments in variations from the suggested standards. Because proper experiments involve much time, labor and expense, Arlington turf garden is handicapped in the number that can be undertaken there. But think how many would be under way if each greenkeeper were carrying on only six, intelligently and scientifically. Careful record should be kept, for experiments are of little value if not properly recorded and checked.

In such a way the greenkeeper can help much by careful study and observation of the success or failure under his own local conditions. If a greenkeeper would keep an old-fashioned diary, putting down in his own words and in his own way a report of the improvements that he has accomplished, or the failures, as to methods, material or workmanship, it would be of surpassing value. I know he would be surprised to find how little time it would take daily to write out the most interesting thing that had occurred in his work that day. This would soon become almost a habit and his daily entry would be made almost subconsciously and with little effort. Later on how he would enjoy reading all the interesting occurrences of the season! I can assure you that no more interesting articles could or would appear in THE BULLETIN than these self-same diary reports, be they long or short. Being actual records, naturally they would carry more weight. If a prize contest were held for the most interesting diary of a season's work, I know that there would be many competitors and the winner would be well worthy of the record.

I think that you will agree with my opening statement that I have said nothing new or startling but have endeavored to bring home to you in a simple, logical way some few facts. I realize that I have not named them all by a long shot, by which all of us can do our part according to our abilities and opportunities, returning that help to the Green Section which it has so freely and ably given us in the past and which it will be even more ready to supply in the future.

Just one thing more I desire to mention. Of all the good things that the United States Golf Association has done for the advancement of golf in the United States, nothing, in my opinion, has been of more actual benefit than its sponsoring and backing of the Green Section. To the individuals from whose brains that idea first came forth, a monument should be erected, financed by willing contributions of the golf clubs of the country. I believe there is no more fitting site than the turf garden of the Arlington Agricultural Experiment Farm, possibly copying the idea and action of the United States Golf Association in commemorating the holding of the Amateur Championship at each club by placing there an appropriate sun dial, suitably inscribed. In addition, a bronze tablet should be placed in the clubhouse of each of those thoughtful pioneers, so that all their

friends might be aware of the great service he had assisted in performing by the creation of the Green Section. I think I am safe in saying that the Green Section, by its wise advice, has been as great a financial aid to clubs in saving money to such an extent as to have kept the dues from being raised, which touches each of us personally.

It seems to me but fitting that a tribute should be given to the present Green Section leaders. If one has done good work it is but natural that he be pleased if such work is commended. And so I desire to suggest to those present that whenever you can, and with the work of the Green Section so successful I know that will be often, write commendatory letters to those responsible for the work at Washington. Every letter of encouragement is another nail in the coffin of that relentless enemy of golf—"The Devil in Charge of Greenkeeping Troubles."

New Brown-Patch Remedies

We have received a number of inquiries concerning two new fungicides * for brown-patch control which have recently been placed on the market. The active ingredients of each are bichloride of mercury and calomel. One preparation consists of one-third bichloride, and two-thirds calomel. The other contains one-sixth bichloride, one-third calomel, and one-half inert material. Since these mixtures are based on suggestions made in the November, 1927, Bulletin, we refer readers to page 214 of that number of The Bulletin for our opinion as to the possible effectiveness of these new mixtures. Many clubs will no doubt find that there are some advantages in using a prepared mixture such as one of the above but others will probably prefer to buy the chemicals separately and mix them as needed. It is necessary to mix chemicals thoroughly with compost or in water (depending on the method used in making the applications) so these fungicides will require mixing, whether purchased separately or already combined. The preparation containing inert material is not as likely to form large lumps, as is the other mixture or the separate chemicals, so should mix somewhat more readily with compost. However, it should be remembered that this inert material does not control disease, and if a club is interested in economical buying care must be taken not to pay too much for this rather minor advantage of increased bulk due to inert material.

Summer Meeting of Greenkeepers

In the March number of THE BULLETIN it was suggested that greenkeepers express their preference as to the place and time for the summer meeting. There apparently is little choice as to the time but there is some difference of opinion as to whether the meeting should be held at Atlantic City or at Washington. We have therefore decided to compromise and arrange meetings at both places. The regular meeting will be held, as originally suggested, at Atlantic City, on June 4 and 5. For the benefit of those who have expressed a de-

* Calo-Clor and Turfcalomel.