

Annual Greenkeepers' Convention

As announced in the last number of *THE BULLETIN*, the annual greenkeepers' convention of the United States Golf Association Green Section will be held at Atlantic City June 4 and 5. Mr. H. K. Read, of the Country Club of Atlantic City, has extended an invitation of his club for the meeting to be held there on June 4, and he has received a similar invitation from the officials of Pine Valley Golf Club for a visit to that famous course on June 5.

On Monday morning, June 4, the course will be open to play for all greenkeepers and green committee chairmen. Mr. Read is planning to conduct a special tournament, and all are urged to avail themselves of this opportunity to determine for themselves the full meaning of Atlantic City Country Club's extensive display of sand. After lunch the visitors will assemble and be shown about the course. Mr. Read will explain the numerous interesting features in construction, the elaborate water system, sewage disposal system, and the numerous problems met with on his course. One of the new Green Section experimental plantings will also be shown and explained during the afternoon. Dinner will be served at the club and will be followed by an informal discussion, which will be open to all.

Tuesday morning we shall meet at Atlantic City and go from there to Pine Valley. A general inspection of the course is planned, and ample opportunity will be provided to gain some appreciation of the beauties of Pine Valley and to learn something of the specific problems that must be faced in such a location.

On Wednesday there will be an informal meeting at the Arlington Turf Garden, near Washington. Our Green Section staff will be at the garden all day to explain any phase of the experimental work being conducted there.

If anyone is unable to attend the meetings on all three days he will be welcome at any one of the three meetings he wishes to attend.

To aid the staff of the Country Club of Atlantic City in making preparations, we request all who plan to be present at the dinner on the evening of June 4 to notify the Green Section office as soon as possible.

Pine Valley is located on the Reading Railroad. Through tickets should be purchased accordingly.

The Factor of Unfairness in Comparing Maintenance Costs

By Spencer M. Duty, Canterbury Golf Club, Cleveland

For some time figures on golf course maintenance in the Cleveland district have been published, and there is no doubt that a considerable effort has been made to have them accurate. It happens, however, that the club of which I am green committee chairman has the highest, or nearly the highest, maintenance cost, per hole, among the clubs in the association. A comparison with the detailed figures of at least one club shows that to a large extent differences in accounting practices is responsible for differences in the comparative cost figures, there being no uniformity in handling certain general expenses. Furthermore, our higher relative cost is also due, in part,

to the desire of our members to bring the course up to a higher standard, which naturally entails greater expenditures.

It is apparent from Mr. Rockefeller's article in the March BULLETIN that he has a fear of standardized accounting, and, it would seem, with very good reason, because it is impossible to bring out in comparative figures the many varying factors and give a really fair result. Not only are accounting practices among golf clubs widely different, but there is and can be no standard of maintenance. The degree of maintenance is dependent on the wishes of the members and their willingness to pay. Even if we had uniformity in accounting practices and standards of maintenance, local conditions and physical characteristics of courses moreover make comparative figures of doubtful value. Surely we do not want our courses identical any more than we want 18 holes all alike.

The question is not how much is spent on maintenance—that is the concern of each individual club—but rather how well the money is spent. Thanks to the Green Section and the efforts of the greenkeepers' associations, great progress has been made in methods used. Cheap maintenance is not of necessity economical maintenance; it may be, and generally is, expensive in the long run. But it is very easy to get the issue confused in the mind of the average member, who knows little about the subject, and bring about a demand for what is regarded as economy but what really is a demand for a starvation policy. Some time ago the greenkeeper of a neighboring club made a most pertinent statement. He said he had come to the conclusion that when a club started a policy of so-called economy it was time for the greenkeeper to quit. In time he would lose his job anyhow; but if he tried to hang on he would lose his reputation as well.

Frankly, my sympathies are with the greenkeepers. As a body they are doing their utmost. They have shown a most remarkable desire to improve their methods and a willingness to apply the results of research. I most certainly do not think they should be harassed with unfair comparisons or subjected to what may assume the aspects of a "senatorial investigation."

Bent stolons may be planted at any time during the growing season provided they are kept moist by frequent watering. Late summer is, however, the best season for planting, as trouble from weeds and from hot, dry weather is then at a minimum.

Brown-Patch Experiments and Notations Made at Kittansett Club, Marion, Mass., During Season of 1927

By A. B. Porter

For several seasons at Kittansett observations on brown-patch showed that generally the attacks occurred regularly on certain greens year after year and just as regularly did not occur on others. This was one of the reasons why the following experiments were conducted during the season of 1927.

The brown-patch referred to in this article is the large brown-patch that varies in size from 4 inches to 18 inches in diameter and not the small or "dollar spot." This latter type is not common in Massachusetts and has never occurred at Kittansett.