

The Metropolitan District Green Section

By Harry P. Kidd

The enormous growth of the game of golf in the Metropolitan district is shown by the fact that there are nearly 200 member clubs in the Metropolitan Golf Association.

The Metropolitan district is divided into three sections, each functioning separately,—Westchester, New Jersey, and Long Island. In each section there are today more clubs than there were in the Metropolitan Golf Association a very few years ago. The officers of the association are drawn from the three sections, which insures a most harmonious organization. A little over three years ago we established an office at 2 Rector Street, which takes care of a lot of the detail and clerical work which it would be very unfair to ask the officers to do without providing help. This office has developed into a sort of clearing house for everything connected with the game of golf, from the club house to the last hole.

The Green Section of the Metropolitan Golf Association will function as an extension service to the parent body, the United States Golf Association Green Section, with a field man working under its direction and available to all the member clubs. Westchester and New Jersey have green sections, and Long Island has one in the making. Four demonstration plots have already been established, two in New Jersey, one in Westchester, and one on Long Island. We expect to lay down another in Westchester and another on Long Island, making six in all, which will be available to the green chairmen and greenkeepers for observation of treatments of the various grasses under various conditions. Meetings of the green sections in these districts will be held during the year, at which a member of the United States Golf Association Green Section will talk on some interesting subject pertaining to the maintenance of golf courses.

In this way the Metropolitan Golf Association is cooperating with the United States Golf Association Green Section and extending the work which the latter has so ably conducted for the last decade. We would ask all interested in the game of golf, particularly the green chairmen and the greenkeepers of the Metropolitan district, to cooperate with us. We are all working for the same end, after all, to make the courses in the Metropolitan district the best possible, and the best can be obtained only by cooperation.

The New Experimental Turf Garden in Chicago

By C. A. Tregillus

I should like to describe in part the development of the experimental station mentioned by Dr. Monteith as having been recently established for the Middle West.

There has been a movement on foot for some years with a view to establishing such a station. That there is definite need for it is well recognized on all sides. In the first place, the weather and seasons affect the turf and soils differently in that section of the country; secondly, the distance from Arlington is so great that it is impractical for many people who wish to do so to make the journey to see the work that is being done at Arlington and get inspiration from that point.

The early efforts in establishing the station were made by the Midwest Greenkeepers' Association, which felt that experimental and research work in turf culture should be undertaken near home, and by the Green Section of the Western Golf Association, which was conscious of the same need. The United States Golf Association was sympathetic and anxious to help, but it was not until 1928 that Mr. Traylor, its president, and Mr. Peters, of Olympia Fields Country club and chairman of the Midwest Green Section, were able, with the warm support of the Greenkeepers' Association, to start the ball definitely rolling.

It was first thought best to establish the plots on some city or county property, and an offer of such land was made by Mr. Charles (Chick) Evans, who administers the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Of the sites available, however, there was none which was in close enough contact with the golfing interests to be as fully utilized as would be possible were it established in connection with an active course. Mr. Traylor got in touch with Mr. A. D. Lasker, the advertising magnate, who has a large property near Chicago, and interested him in the project, and as a result he donated a lease of sufficient ground to carry on the scheme. Mr. Lasker has an 18-hole golf course on his estate which will rank with any in the country. The soil and climatic conditions there are about the same as are found on a large proportion of the courses in the district. So with the land provided at no cost to the association and with the assurance of several years of occupancy, subject, of course, to its present ownership, we feel that we are off to a good start. The garden is located on the golf course grounds, a situation that can not be other than helpful to those in charge of the actual work of planning the experiments. In addition, it is readily accessible for visiting greenkeepers, green chairmen, and interested golfers, to whom, of course, it will be open at all times.

It is arranged in two sections,—demonstration and experimentation. On the demonstration or show plots we include all the recognized botanical types and commercially known strains of putting green grasses. A number of these plots are 24 feet square—large enough for practical putting; and in this group we have the best known of the creeping bents produced at Arlington and multiplied from stolons, also creeping bent from seed, velvet bent from stolons, Rhode Island bent, redtop, red fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, and mixed annual bluegrass. It so happens that as the land thus occupied has a slight slope we have been able to reproduce the same grade in each small putting green, a happy circumstance that will help materially in determining the influence of slope upon the so-called "grain" of some strains of creeping bent, and the extent to which grain may be considered as a mental or physical hazard.

In addition to these greens there are some 18 or 20 smaller plots, also kept in the best possible putting condition. These include the better-known commercial strains of creeping bent vegetated from stolons and grown from seed, velvet bent from stolons and from seed, Rhode Island bent from seed from the East and the West, and fescues from this continent and Europe. These plots will be added to as occasion warrants, as it is the aim of those directing the work of the garden to have this section embrace all the grasses we know of that have any connection with putting greens. This will serve a two-

fold purpose; it will allow visitors to compare grasses on their putting merits and will also assist in the identification of established greens. The identification of creeping bent strains is a vexing problem, as they seem to respond differently to varying climatic influences; a particular strain that in the East will take on certain characteristics of color and texture might be very different in the Midwest or on the Pacific coast, due entirely to the reaction of climate, soil texture, and other conditions. Those who have worked with bents know how hard it is to separate and identify them, and no competent man will really try to do so—on sight, anyway.

The experimental section will be devoted entirely to investigational work, such as the study of fertilizers, chemicals for weeds, disease, and pest control, soil textures, drainage, cultural methods, and so on.

We feel that we have a good layout and that we can conduct this work to advantage and serve that large section of the country that lies around and west of the Great Lakes, where many special problems are in need of such work as this. We feel also that we have a rare good fortune in the earnest and hearty cooperation of the Midwest Greenkeepers' Association, the Midwest Green Section, and the United States Golf Association Green Section, and that this combination will really make the project a complete success.

The New Green Section Demonstration Plots as an Aid to the Greenkeeper

By F. H. Wilson

I think we all appreciate the wonderful work done by the Green Section at Arlington and the valuable information that we have received, and shall continue to receive, in the Bulletin from time to time. I remember well two years ago the visit I made to Washington and the valuable amount of information I gathered there. I think many of us in New England, from where I come, were wondering if the experiments at Washington would work out with us in New England in the same manner under the different soil and climatic conditions. This last summer Mr. Hood, chairman of our New England Service Bureau, asked the Greenkeepers' Club of New England to appoint a committee to confer with him on the establishment of a demonstration plot, of which Dr. Monteith has spoken, under the direction of the Green Section. The Charles River Country Club was chosen, and with the help of Mr. Welton, and under his direction, we planted the plots on September 16, 1928.

I was much surprised to find what an interest was taken in these plots by my club members, many of whom have gone over the plots with me. The different plots do not show any great results as yet, but all visitors, including greenkeepers of the locality, have been enthusiastic about them.

Greenkeepers have no time for consistent work along experimental lines. I shall give you a demonstration of that by a questionnaire on brown-patch sent out several years ago to the chairmen of our green committees in New England. That questionnaire, when it came back, after a season of severe brown-patch attack, had everything under the sun on it. The greenkeepers tried everything on the calendar—spraying with calomel, early morning watering, brushing the green, applying compounds of sulphate of ammonia, and so on.