

Green Section Summer Meetings

During August the Green Section held meetings for green-committee members and greenkeepers at the Arlington turf garden, near Washington, and at the new Green Section experimental station in the Chicago district. Both of these meetings were well attended and much interest was displayed in the experimental work being conducted on various turf grasses. The Washington meeting was held on Monday and Tuesday, August 19 and 20, and was conducted in cooperation with the Mid-Atlantic Association of Greenkeepers. The Chicago meeting was held on August 26, in cooperation with the Chicago District Golf Association Green Section and the Mid-West Greenkeepers' Association.



The Arlington Turf Garden prepared for the Green Section meeting on August 19. White labels marked the plots where some of the more interesting tests were being made.

WASHINGTON MEETING

Visitors assembled at the Arlington turf garden Monday morning, and in body had the main features of the experimental work briefly explained to them. There were about 70 in attendance. After this survey of the garden smaller groups assembled to discuss more thoroughly the phases of the work in which they were particularly interested. This informal discussion continued until early afternoon. Four of the local golf clubs (Columbia, Burning Tree, Manor, and Washington) kindly extended the privileges of their courses to visitors who wished to play golf during the afternoon of Monday. Many availed themselves of this opportunity, while some returned to the turf garden for further observation and discussion of the experimental work.

In the evening the Mid-Atlantic Association of Greenkeepers held its monthly meeting, to which all who attended the Green Section meeting were invited. The meeting was preceded by a dinner and practically all who attended the meeting at Arlington were present at the dinner and evening discussion. The chief feature of this meeting was a talk on bent seed by Mr. F. H. Hillman, of the Seed Testing Laboratory, United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Hillman is acknowledged to be the greatest authority on seed of many of the grasses, including those of chief interest to golf courses. He had recently returned from visits through some of the new bent-seed

producing areas of this country and Canada and therefore was able to present during his discussion some of the most recent information available. His talk had so much of interest and value to golf courses that we hope to incorporate it completely in an early issue of the Bulletin. During the evening Mr. Hillman answered many questions which were presented. Afterward the meeting was open for a general discussion of topics of interest to those in attendance.

Many of the visitors remained for the second day of the program, which was entirely in charge of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Greenkeepers. This organization acted as hosts and arranged an instructive tour of some of the interesting golf courses in the Washington district. Practical problems were presented and discussed on the courses as the party went about from one course to another. The trip proved of interest to all who were able to avail themselves of the opportunity.

At the Arlington turf garden many of the usual mid-summer injuries to turf were not in evidence. In mid-August, when brown-patch damage is usually very conspicuous at Arlington, control treatments show their true values. However, this season brown-patch was less severe at Arlington and the experimental brown-patch treatments therefore did not show much of interest. The fertilizer plots also did not have the striking contrast that is ordinarily in evidence at this season. Nevertheless the visitors found many features of the work to hold their interest, as was clearly indicated by the late hour they lingered before departing for lunch, in spite of the fact that Washington is on standard time and many were in the habit of having lunch on the earlier daylight-saving schedule.



Some of the visitors at the Washington meeting assembled around one of the demonstrations at the Arlington Turf Garden.

The plots with the various strains of grasses attracted most attention. The large plots which are maintained in putting green condition and equipped with cups naturally were of great interest, and visitors were able to test their skill and prejudices on several different strains of bent planted with the stolon method or with seed. The Arnott mechanical putter was used to show the comparative length of putt on the up-hill and down-hill grades of the different grasses. There was much interest in the test of the new ball in comparison with the present ball for putting purposes. Many interest-

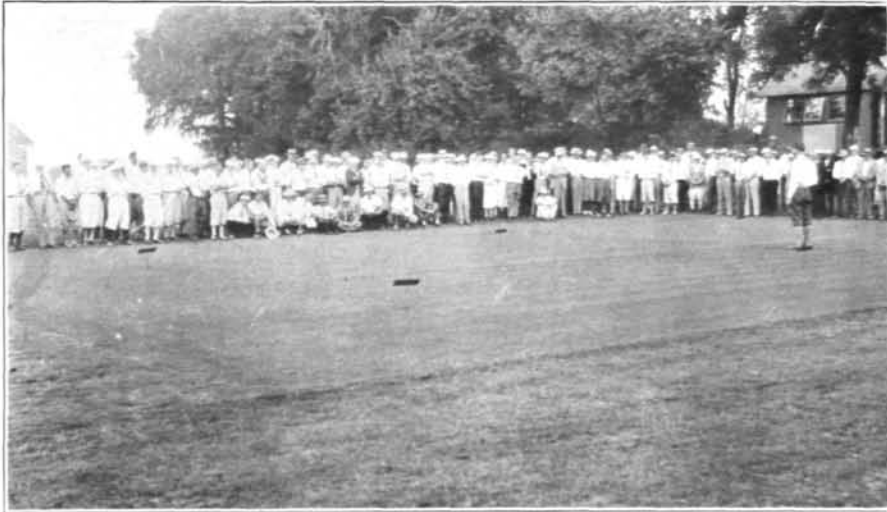
ing questions and statements were brought forth in going over these plots. Briefly the consensus of opinion seemed to be that if the ball is hit properly it will find its way into the cup on almost any variety of grass which is properly cared for. It was evident, however, that certain varieties of grasses required much more attention to keep them in good condition than do other good turf grasses. The fescue plot was by far the worst in this series. Certainly none of the visitors would be likely to plant greens of fescue after comparing this plot with the plots of bent grasses nearby. The velvet bent plot attracted much attention and brought out many favorable comments. Judging from the interest shown in that plot we are willing to predict that velvet bent is due for some extensive tests on golf courses in the near future. There was a large number of plots containing a collection of many different strains of both creeping and velvet bent. These strains are being observed at Arlington for quality of turf, disease resistance, and other characteristics before they are distributed to golf courses. Even a casual survey of these plots showed that some of them had much promise while others would probably soon be discarded.

In connection with the tests with the varieties of grasses the visitors were shown the system of identifying strains of creeping bent. This system has been in use at the Arlington turf garden for the past two years and is proving very effective in clearing up the confusion which is in evidence throughout the country as to the identity of many strains of bent which are being propagated on a commercial scale. A number of samples sent in by golf clubs and by companies raising bent commercially are now being tested at Arlington. When a sample is sent in for identification it is planted in one of the identification rows and next to it is planted a similar sample from the original stock of the common strains, such as Washington, Metropolitan, Virginia, and Columbia. After growing for some time, the turf to be identified grows away from the soil sent in with the sample. When it is thoroughly established on the new soil it is possible to identify the grass readily, for any differences in growth due to soil and climate are eliminated, since the sample to be identified and the sample from Arlington stock are growing side by side on the same soil. It was very clear to visitors that many of the clubs which have purchased creeping bent as the Washington strain in reality have the Virginia bent, which the Green Section does not recommend. There were several plugs sent in by courses as Washington bent which visitors could readily see proved to be the Virginia bent when put in an identification row. One sample which caused much amusement had been received from a Western club which had planted greens with supposedly seaside bent seed for which they had paid over \$2 a pound. The sample of turf which this club sent from its greens showed a thick growth of timothy and redtop but no evidence whatever of any seaside bent.

Another series of tests which was of much interest was that demonstrating the weed content of compost. The top soil from some plots on the garden had been removed to a depth of 3 inches. Half of the area was replaced with ordinary poorly prepared compost, whereas steamed compost had been used in the other half. The resultant development of weed growth proved enlightening. The plots containing the unsteamed compost were covered with weeds, particularly the various kinds of crab grass. The plots where the steamed

compost had been used had only a light scattering of weeds. A series of flats containing samples of compost from various courses in the Washington district were also on exhibition. These flats had been cared for in a similar manner, but the growth of weeds was decidedly different. In a few flats there was only an occasional weed, whereas others contained a dense growth of numerous kinds of weeds. It was plainly evident that on some courses every time compost is applied the greenkeeper is planting a large supply of seed to keep the weed-pickers busy later in the summer. It is planned to publish photographs of these tests in a future number of the Bulletin.

Although diseases were not very prevalent, visitors had an opportunity to compare the symptoms of small brown-patch and Pythium. These two diseases are frequently confused and it is difficult to distinguish between them merely from a verbal description. Where two diseases occur together on the same plot the distinctive characteristics can be readily pointed out. Some other tests which attracted attention were those with different chemicals for controlling the zonate eye-spot disease on Virginia bent. On some plots the control of this disease was very marked.



Visitors at the Green Section meeting at the new Green Section Experimental Turf Garden, West Lake Forest, Ill.

During the morning a demonstration was given of the influence of structure on the movement of water through the soil. A set of tubes containing respectively dry sand, sandy loam, loam, and clay, was lowered into a pan of water on the day preceding the meeting. The tops of the columns of water had been marked on the tubes at different intervals of time, showing speed of movement through the soil. A tube of sand and another of loam were lowered into the water while the visitors were assembled, and by returning at intervals during the morning the visitors were able to watch the rate of movement through these soils. This demonstration clearly pointed out why it is necessary to use different methods of watering on a soil of a sandy type as compared with one containing a large proportion of fine particles of clay.

During the morning plugs were removed from a number of plots on the garden. These plugs showed a decided difference in root growth among different grasses as well as among plots receiving different chemicals.

CHICAGO MEETING

The meeting in Chicago was the first summer gathering sponsored by the Green Section in the Middle West. The attendance of 250 indicated that there was a keen interest in this type of gathering in that section of the country. The new Green Section experimental turf garden was started in the Chicago district last September, and therefore all of the tests were on young turf. Only half of the garden had been planted at the time of this meeting, nevertheless the visitors apparently were able to find much of interest.



A group gathered about the first tee of the Mill Road Farm Golf Course waiting to tee off in the Green Section tournament on August 26.

As in Washington, the first part of the program was devoted to a survey of the experimental garden. The fertilizer and other chemical tests did not show very striking results, due to the fact that the tests had been under way only a single season. The fertilizer plots showed very little difference except that, as at Washington, the plots receiving nitrogen in a readily available form were superior to those receiving other fertilizers. Such tests are of greater interest after they have been continued for a period of years and will no doubt show more interesting contrasts at future meetings.

As at Arlington, diseases were not much in evidence and therefore control treatments could not show anything of interest. Plots of various grasses, however, were in condition to permit a brief comparison of the relative merits of various types of grasses planted by the seed or stolon methods. The Arnott mechanical putter was used to compare the length of putt on the different grasses on similar grades. A comparison of the old and new model ball was also made at this meeting.

One of the features of the program was the demonstration of the root development of grasses cut at different heights. A study of this

is being conducted in the botany department of the University of Chicago and will be reported more in detail in some later issue of the Bulletin. Judging from the interest shown in the demonstration it is perhaps safe to predict that some clubs which sent delegates to the meeting will find their fairways somewhat longer during at least part of the growing season. The recent tendency to keep setting fairway mowing units lower and lower will probably receive something of a jolt if future Green Section work at the University of Chicago supports the preliminary results already obtained.

As at Arlington, during the morning a demonstration was given of the influence of structure on the movement of water through the soil.

After the morning session at the experimental plots, visitors had an opportunity to walk through Mr. Lasker's gardens while on their way to lunch, which was held on his estate.

During the afternoon most of the visitors availed themselves of the opportunity to play Mr. Lasker's course in the Green Section tournament. Many of those who did not play returned to the turf garden for future discussion and then went on a short tour of inspection about the golf course.

After the tournament the delegates went to the Onwentsia Club for dinner and a meeting sponsored by the Green Section of the Chicago District Golf Association. During the course of the evening prizes donated by the United States Golf Association and the Mid-West Greenkeepers' Association were awarded to the successful competitors in the afternoon's tournament. A general informal discussion of golf turf problems followed the dinner. The Mid-West Greenkeepers' Association invited those in attendance to visit the local courses on the following day.



Alex Pirie starting from the first tee in the Green Section tournament after he had completed his task of making arrangements for the tournament.

One or more trees to each tee not only add to the beauty of the landscape but are a blessing to both grass and golfers on midsummer afternoons. The fine turf grasses as well as humans enjoy partial shade. Crab grass especially is vastly easier to control under shaded conditions, and thus less injurious to the turf of the tee. The trees of course should be planted on the south side of the tee to provide the proper shade.