

up every root that is planted, but it keeps down the weeds, and we find that we get a good mat of Bermuda the first year; whereas if we do not harrow we have a crop of weeds that gets started ahead of the Bermuda and checks its growth, and it takes several years to get as good an effect as you can in one year by harrowing."

Dear Bill Letter III

Richland Center, N. Y., July 4, 1921.

DEAR BILL:

Instead of sobbing on my shoulder why don't you write to Cynthia Grey or Dorothy Dean and tell how your young life has been blasted? You certainly have less sense than Thompson's colt; and I believe it is an historical fact that it had none.

After all I've said you've listened to the *experts* again, because it was easier than working out your own problems. It you haven't enough interest to study and find out for yourself, don't expect me to waste perfectly good paper writing to you.

Of course, your expert was "johnny on the spot" with a satisfactory answer to all your questions and a complete solution of your troubles. Did you ever hear of the infant prodigy who could mystify audiences by multiplying 46,473.47 by 732,427,222 and give the answer as soon as the last figure passed the lips of his questioner? Expressions of wonder and great applause attended every exhibition until some person of less than ordinary intelligence inquired if it would be a good idea to take down the figures to see if the boy's answer had any relation to the figures given.

Do just as you like—either find out for yourself or listen to the expert.

Don't understand that there are no highly qualified men in the green-keeping business, because there are lots of them; but the best are never afraid to say they don't know, if they don't. The "expert," however, always knows. His fountain of knowledge never runs dry. He'll sell you enough stuff to keep you busy a couple of years getting rid of it, and then, just like the little red rooster, he won't "come around as often as he useter."

You are a shining example of the green-committeeman who can wear a pretty golf suit and just get in the way. The average greenkeeper looks upon the chairman and committee as something which must be endured, and, with more or less tact, depending on the man, the fool suggestions and orders of the committee are ignored or put on the shelf until they are either forgotten by the committee or superseded by something new but equally fatuous and futile.

You positively may not hope (as our ex-President might put it) to be entitled to the respect of your greenkeeper and the men unless you get down to brass tacks and learn something about the business and how it should be done. If you are in earnest you'll find out, in a general way, of course, how to adjust a lawn mower. You'll find out whether it is run by gears or clockworks. You'll find out what each job on the course really is and how it is done and how long it should take. When you know something about the practical end of the work, you'll use a little more sense in making suggestions or giving orders and you'll commence to have some notion about where your money goes.

If you contemplate taking all the degrees and possibly being a Past

Master some day, you must serve your novitiate. You must work. It's the old choice 'twixt love and duty—your game or the grass. I know I'm a "nut," but there are lots of them just like me who are finding it real fun to learn this work and by their efforts to get better results and enhance the pleasure of their friends.

My real business isn't rotten—it just isn't. I don't know where the Wheatena is coming from for breakfast; but perhaps my family can learn to eat grass, if they try.

Yours,

CHAUNCEY.

The Golf Club and the Golf Course Architect

ROBERT WHITE, *Wykagyl Country Club*

Just what are the functions of the golf course architect? My own experience has been perhaps an unusual one, because of the opportunity a number of times to represent a club in its dealings with the architect. At frequent intervals I have been on the other side of the fence—designing courses myself, and advising as to methods of construction. As a rule, the average director of a golf club has only the faintest idea of what the club should expect when it engages the architect's services. The character of the service rendered is different in the case of each particular architect.

In engaging an architect I should say that the club has the right to expect the following: (1) That he has the type of imagination that is able after he studies the land in the rough to visualize the finished course. (2) That he has sufficient knowledge of soils and soil structure to be able not only to plan good golf holes, but to suggest methods of treatment that will produce good turf in the shortest possible time and at the minimum of expense. (3) That he knows the various grass seeds suitable to various conditions of soil and climate and can advise the club as to where they may be procured of the best quality at the least cost. (I am always suspicious of anyone who recommends a fairway or putting green mixture. Except for the bents and redtop, all seeds should be sown separately.) (4) That he is able to advise as to methods of construction that will produce the maximum results with the minimum expense.

The commission that delights the architect is the one where the land is turned over to him with instructions to produce a first-class golf course with *carte blanche* as to the matter of expense. Then if the results are not of the best the club has indeed been unfortunate in its selection. Where money is available only in a limited amount, the proposition submitted to the architect should be about as follows: The club has a certain amount of money available to be spent in building (or, in the case of an established course, a certain number of holes). How can we spend this amount to the best advantage, and what should we have when it has been spent?

The possibilities in fitting the cost to the purse are almost unlimited. There is an 18-hole course on Long Island which cost over \$750,000. On a 9-hole course in New Jersey, built in 1917, the greens were shaped, trapped, and seeded, and the fairways plowed, harrowed, and seeded, all at an expense of less than \$2,000. The same club built three tennis courts at the same time which cost more than the golf course. Of course, an elaborate