

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

scheme of hazards was out of the question; but most of the holes being more or less of the dog-leg variety, the rough made sufficient hazard to make the course quite interesting. The tract was a farm which had been in corn and potatoes. On sixty or seventy acres of pasture that is not too hilly a 9-hole course can be opened for play at even smaller expense.

No matter how small the amount of money available, it is poor policy for the club to attempt the design or improvement of its course without the services of a competent architect. An excellent idea is to have complete plans made in the beginning and let the carrying out be a matter of time and the growth of the club's resources.

Cornell University Establishes a Course to Train Men to Superintend Parks and Golf Courses

Realizing the necessity of securing better trained men to superintend golf courses, especially in relation to turf matters, the Green Committee authorized its chairman to take up the matter with various agricultural colleges. The original idea was that a two-year course to high school graduates should suffice, but on further thought it was realized that to secure men skilled in such matters as soils, drainage, landscape architecture, turf growing, the use of machinery, the control of pests, etc., a more thorough training was necessary.

The idea has been adopted by Cornell University. Dean A. R. Mann, of the College of Agriculture, informs us that the course will be offered beginning the next college year.

This we regard as a great step in advance and enables us to look forward to a supply of competent men for such duties as park superintendents and managers of golf courses and country estates and for similar important functions. It is a realization of the idea that agriculture has public duties in connection with such esthetic matters as parks and with such amusements as golf, as well as with the raising of crops and livestock. There is reason to believe that other institutions will follow the splendid enterprise of Cornell.

Questions and Answers

All questions sent to the Green Committee will be answered as promptly as possible in a letter to the writer. The more interesting of these questions, with concise answers, will appear in this column each month. If your experience leads you to disagree with any answer given in this column, it is your privilege and duty to write to the Green Committee.

1. *Our supervisor subscribes to the idea of an acid soil, but contends that we need to sweeten up the soil to give the young grass a start, and has roughly estimated 200 tons of lime. That figures at least 3 tons per acre, which is as much as is recommended for alfalfa or clover. It seems to me that this would give us a considerable crop of white clover, and a liberal use of lime at a neighboring club less than a mile away has done just that. An agriculturist friend of mine thinks we should use about 200 pounds of sulphate and 400 pounds of acid phosphate, but is of the opinion that 3 tons of lime per acre would offset the acidity of this fertilizer and absolutely guarantee the white clover nuisance. My specific question is, Do we need a sweet soil to start the grasses which thrive best later on in an acid soil? As we are now buying materials I should like your comment.*