

Foresight

The title of this editorial does not indicate a tendency toward clairvoyancy, but rather a warning that unless common horse-sense is applied to the problems of golf course maintenance the green committees of clubs and the Green Section of the United States Golf Association will get nowhere.

Though the results of the first year of the Green Section were apparently flattering, we are constantly in receipt of letters that show courses maintained by successful, intelligent men in the same old haphazard way without a thought of the past or the future.

Our title might well have been *Foresight and Hindsight*, for the two go together. Foresight without the retrospection of hindsight is plain guess-work.

To illustrate our sermon, we have before us a letter from a club that has a beautiful bluegrass turf. It is so located that a plentiful supply of manure should be easy. Nevertheless, the 1922 budget of the club forecasts an expenditure of about three thousand dollars for seed and commercial humus.

That seeding on established turf is, to say the least, of doubtful value, has been determined time and time again. That good old-fashioned compost made of manure and loam is better than so-called humus, cannot be denied.

Why, then, in the name of common sense, should not this particular club look ahead a little? Why not cut some of the seed and humus out of this year's program and provide for the future by starting a compost pile, which will pay dividends year after year in the way of reduced expenses?

Did you ever see a successful gardener or greenhouse man without his compost pile? Did he ever let a year go by without replacing new material in his pile to take the place of what was used up?

If the ordinary gardener or greenhouse man cannot afford luxuries such as humus or excessive seed, it is a certainty that a green committee cannot.

Any club in the Green Section of the United States Golf Association that does not start a compost pile in 1922, if it has none now, and every club that does not keep up its compost pile year by year, should be fined, excommunicated, ostracized, or something worse. The bigger the pile, the better, because it is like money in the bank; but if funds will not permit the starting of a big pile, then start a little one; but make a start. The minimum should be around fifty cubic yards—we never saw too much on any course.

Look back to see the mistakes of the past and look ahead to their correction.

Back Numbers of The Bulletin

The Green Committee still has available a limited supply of the 1921 Bulletins. Not all numbers can be furnished, but most of them. These may be obtained at 20 cents per copy.

The Green Committee of the U. S. Golf Association is always glad to publish items showing how work around courses can best be done.