

report later the results. We are also now planting red fescue in the quack-grass turf and expect from the showing so far good results."

This experience at Escanaba is extremely interesting. It is highly probable that good turf of quack-grass can be secured on soil too sandy even for such sand-loving grasses as red fescue and Rhode Island bent. The weedy character of quack-grass need not be feared at all on a golf course, except that perhaps care should be taken not to plant it too close to the putting-greens, as the grass can easily evade the putting-greens by means of the long creeping underground rootstocks.

### Divots—Replacement of Turf

A. J. HOOD, DETROIT GOLF CLUB

An old golfer of quite mediocre caliber as far as his game is concerned, but who claims that he aims to make up for his lack of physical prowess as a player by his manifestation of the proper spirit and interest toward the other end of the game—the golf course—has given himself the privilege of riding a hobby, and said hobby takes the form of divots—replacement of turf. He insists it is one of the vital things connected with the cost of maintenance and upkeep, with which we are all so much concerned these days, and points to the emphasis laid upon the subject of replacement of turf by every green committee actively engaged in the improvement and betterment of its course. He proclaims loudly and long on his hobby whenever and wherever opportunity offers; and not infrequently the air of indifference with which it is received would indicate that he misjudges his moment of opportunity; but, giving the devil his due, it must be said he remains undismayed even though he may stand meekly by and wait for another day.

He reasons that most of the money spent on a golf course is for the purpose of building up the turf. Therefore it is highly important that every precaution should be taken to keep it in good condition after getting it there. And in this direction, one of the first and foremost steps to be taken, is to insure the proper replacement of turf. Suiting his words to action, he goes forth each day with a first-aid equipment of two boxes of fine grass seed—one in each hip pocket. The containers are metal cigar boxes of concave shape that snuggle on the hip like a corset on "a perfect 36." The boxes have a small hole about the size of a lead pencil, in the upper corner, through which the seed may be readily distributed. In one front pocket he carries an assortment of small wooden pegs; and in still another pocket an instrument that might be mistaken for a Dago's stiletto, a colored man's friend, or a tree surgeon's pruning knife.

With the above ammunition he nonchalantly sallies forth to help heal the unsightly scars made by himself and his associates—to give battle to the unbelievers—and incidentally to push his propaganda by active example among the foursome with which he may be traveling. If he or one of his crowd takes a divot or if he finds one en route left by some careless predecessor, he picks up the divot if he can find it, scratches the scar with his big knife, sprinkles some grass seed, replaces the turf, tamps it down with his foot, takes out a couple of the little wooden pegs, drives them in with his iron, and the job is done. Often his reward is some frost-bitten quips, ironical queries, or indulgent smiles. Perhaps this fat man thinks he needs exercise. Here is plenty of chance for it. While the foursome may be

waiting for the players ahead, he is always finding lots of spots for the doctor; if he can't find turf to replace, he stirs up a bald spot, spreads grass seed, and tamps it down firmly with his foot. If there is moisture in the ground there is a good prospect for the grass seed to grow. Where the divot has been laid down on top of seed, it has a chance to act in one of several capacities. Some skeptics who never originated an idea in their lives will pooh-pooh your humble effort and tell you that the scar would heal of its own accord from the old roots. It might, and again it might not; there is no certainty about it at all. A great deal depends on the nature of the turf, how deep the roots are, and how deep the scar is. There are always literally hundreds of places all over a course where the turf did not come, or where it was very slow coming back; and usually a little grass seed works wonders, particularly during the growing or moist season of the year. During July and August, when you are apt to get the smallest percentage of moisture, the minimum of results will follow; but even seed sown then is likely to produce results in September or earlier, should chance rains come along.

Frequently divots that have been replaced become loosened and then kicked away, but if moisture has gotten under the divot, the grass seed may have germinated and gathered head. At any rate, outside the effort, which is good exercise and furnishes activity for the idle moments of a nervous man, it costs little, gives good promise of results, and furnishes an insurance for the future.

On the putting-green he is not idle. He hates dandelions, plantain weeds, or any other old kind of weeds. He gets out his murderous-looking knife, and if opportunity occurs, while the others are not looking or are putting, he slips the blade into Mr. Weed an inch or two below the surface, and yanks him out, sprinkles some grass seed in the hole, tamps it down with his foot, and proceeds on his victorious march. If there are no players following closely behind and there are prospects for some delay for his gang at the next tee, he remains behind following his little hobby to his heart's content.

He stoutly maintains that he can show you fifty spots at a time where his hobby is producing results, and that if he could persuade all the members of his green committee to follow suit, the results would be decidedly pronounced, and that if he could go a little farther and enlist the officers of the club and the members of the various club committees the showing would be astounding. He asseverates that even if no results were visible, other than the moral object lesson, it would be worth while. If good company breeds good manners, or a good example has a healthy influence on bystanders, it should inculcate the thoughtless with a more serious consideration for the care of his turf. He espouses the work of the missionary pioneering the way among the heathen, recounts his converts, proclaims his following, and asks for support from all good golfers.

(We know a player who for years has followed the practice of kicking or otherwise removing stones from the paths and fairways of his home course. This is done while walking between shots and between greens and tees. It does not interfere in the least with his game or the play of others. His course still has a good many stones on it in spots, so that the casual observer can not see much to our player friend's stone-removing activity. But there is something to his practice,—a great deal, in fact. Through his influence and example other players have adopted it, and the clearing that has resulted is very noticeable to those who have their eyes open.

Mr. Hood tells of the practice of a certain golfer with divots and dandelions. He is quite right in his contention that the gentleman's practice has a good moral effect on his fellow-players. This brings up the question, Why not launch a movement to enlist players in the cause of bettering their golf courses by doing a little improvement work with every game, not enough to make it burdensome but enough to give them an intelligent interest in the course and a better understanding of what it means to produce good turf and keep the course in first-class condition? Get them started to replacing divots, removing loose stones from the paths and fairways, removing weeds from the greens (some instruction should be given in this connection to prevent injury to the turf), and doing other kinds of "police" work to polish up the course. When a player once begins to take a real intelligent interest in his home course he usually becomes a devoted student of the turf end of the game and incidentally a more useful member of his club. Possibly his score may suffer somewhat, but he will get a lot more fun out of golf. Let us hope that players with hobbies similar to that narrated by Mr. Hood will develop by the hundreds wherever golf is played.—EDITORS)

### The Folly of Trying to Beat Nature

Patience is still a virtue even in these times when all else seems to be sacrificed to the desire for speed. The waste of haste is perhaps nowhere better illustrated than in the attempts made to build golf courses hurriedly. When a new club is formed, it is perfectly natural for the members to want the course finished as soon as possible, even if it involves much greater expenditure. It is true that the physical features of a new course, the putting-greens, the bunkers, the fairways, etc., can be built more quickly if many men are employed and the work pushed regardless of season or weather. But there are other considerations that no amount of money can overcome.

First, if the soil on the new course is at all clayey, it is very unwise to work on it while wet or water-logged. Not only is such work more expensive, but it necessarily involves puddling the soil so that it becomes baked when dry. No farmer is such a fool as to work heavy soils when wet. The injury done may require years to correct.

Secondly, when the soil conditions are very favorable, grass seed may be sown about September first and a turf good enough for winter rules secured by the following May. If, on the other hand, the sowing is done in spring, as too often done foolishly, it is practically out of the question to produce turf the same season fit for golfing. Nearly always it will involve additional seeding in the fall to fill up the spaces killed by crab-grass and other weeds. Dame Nature can't be hurried, flurried or worried. She must be treated as the diplomatic old negro learned to manage his wife,—  
"Whatever my wife don't like, I naturally hates."

If you are going to build a new golf course, be wise. Begin work in spring, with the aim of getting the construction work done so as to seed between August 15 and September 15. Don't work in heavy soils when they are wet. Sowing fine grass seeds in the north except in late summer or early fall nearly always gives disappointing results, and never gives you good turf any sooner.

It is proverbially difficult to save a foolish man from folly, but in these days when we are trying to cut needless waste and extravagance out of golf, it is worth endless labor to try to get the golfing fraternity "to use its bean," as the high-school girl would say. There is a proper time for everything. The proper time to seed fine grasses is late summer, and no matter what else you do, spring seeding will bring you disappointment. Don't let any one persuade you otherwise.