

The Green Section Meeting at Inwood

By R. A. OAKLEY

If the greencommitteeman who casually remarked that the trouble with the Green Section's field is that it is too soon worked could have been induced to stay for the Green Section meeting at Inwood the evening of July 13 he would have had to acknowledge his error without argument. When the Vice Chairman arrived at the Inwood Country Club, where he went almost solely to enjoy the thrills of the open tournament, he had no notion of trying to hold a Green Section meeting, but the faithful and ever enthusiastic fans decreed otherwise. To help matters along, Mr. Steiner, President of the Club, very kindly made the big information tent available, and Mr. McMahon, Executive Secretary of the United States Golf Association, who, as is customary with him at tournaments, was working only about twenty hours a day, took the time to print the notices and advertise the event. Mr. George Sargent, President of the professionals and one of the most ardent of turf fans, assisted materially in arousing interest in the meeting. It was the intention from the outset that the meeting should be informal; and those who attended can vouch for the fidelity with which this good resolve was kept. In fact, it wasn't really a meeting that was held, but a sort of catch-as-catch-can discussion. There was no speaker, moderator, or sergeant-at-arms, but just a bunch of fellows who wanted to talk grass. It didn't take long for them to warm up and discuss the things about turf growing that interested them most. That is why we say that if the gentleman referred to at the beginning of this account, and whose name we will not divulge, had stuck around, so to speak, he would have been convinced beyond all possibility of doubt that there is still a large area in the field of the Green Section not only to be plowed but also to be disked, harrowed, and cultipacked. Incidentally, the gentleman in question is one of the Green Section's best supporters; so we are going to send him a marked copy of this number of *THE BULLETIN*.

One of the most encouraging things about the Inwood meeting was the fact that the faithful few were composed largely of professionals and greenkeepers, men who bear the burden in the heat of the day and fight the brown-patch and crab grass between meals. They were men who were there to ask intelligent questions and who were looking for intelligent answers. Mr. J. Ebb. Weir, Jr., and his party had come all the way from Jamesport, Long Island, that evening especially for the meeting. Several professionals, including Messrs. Sargent, Mackie, and Ogg, had had two stiff rounds of golf that day in the finals. Mr. Haddon, of the Van Cortland Park Public Course, had chased around scoring for Jock Hutchison; but this wasn't so much of a job with Jock shooting 142. Had it been the following day, Mr. Haddon would probably have been present in spirit only. Most of the others deserve credit for being there because of the inconvenient hour with relation to train schedules to their respective homes.

The greatest amount of interest centered around the vegetative planting of bent grass greens. Questions galore were asked on this subject. It was evident from the nature of the questions that there is still a great deal of confusion in the minds of many who would like to try out the method, as to how the job is actually done. The articles in *THE BULLETIN* apparently

have not made the steps entirely clear. The articles have not explained with sufficient clarity that no seed is used, that the stems (called runners or stolons and which lie flat upon the ground) are the part of the plant that is required, and that it is from the joints, or nodes, of these stems that the new plants come, the plants that make the close, fine turf provided they are properly top-dressed and closely cut. The questioning indicated that there is still some haziness with regard to the difference between planting a bent nursery and planting a green. It was explained that in the nursery the bent runners are planted end to end, or nearly so, in rows wide enough apart to cultivate with a horse cultivator; and that the nursery is planted for the purpose of growing runners for planting greens a year later. Although it was dark in the tent because, as one fan said, "that is what mosquitoes are for," pencil and paper were used freely if not artistically to illustrate the planting of the bent runners, or stolons, in nursery rows, the lifting of the runners produced from such plantings a year later, the chopping of them into lengths of 3 inches or less, and the scattering or covering of them on the green after it has been properly prepared as though it were to be newly seeded. Other points that were brought out were that after a green is planted with chopped-up runners it should be kept moist until the new plants which come from the joints have made a good start, and that after they have made a good start—that is, a growth of about 2 inches—they should be kept cut down closely and well top-dressed. George Sargent said he had let some of his plantings grow away up and when he cut them down they looked like a stubble field, but after top-dressing they made the finest turf ever. But George is an experienced hand at the game and he can take liberties that the rest of us should not take.

The discussion on vegetative planting covered all the important points and consumed lots of time. Of course it was punctuated here and there by "How do you kill ants?" and a lot of other mighty vital questions. As a matter of fact, it never did really end. Speaking of ants and other animal pests, it is certain that we need a really satisfactory method, one much better than the carbon disulfid method, which a majority of those present agreed is about the best one now in use, before we have solved the ant problem. Caution was urged regarding the use of poison baits containing borax. It doesn't take much borax to make the soil unfit for growing plants. While on the subject of ants, Mr. Inglis, of Savannah, told us how he kills moles. He takes raw peanuts, squeezes the end of each shell, and inserts a crystal of strychnine, and then puts a nut in each runway. This method he says beats trapping.

Second in interest to vegetative planting seemed to be brown-patch. We were told that a man out in Ohio had a dead-sure-shot prevention and cure for this curse; but as he was too far away to be paged it was agreed that the Vice Chairman should investigate the alleged treatment, by correspondence or otherwise. The discussion brought out the fact that there are two kinds of brown-patch, one kind that makes large patches circular in pattern, and one kind that kills the turf in circular spots usually 2 to 4 inches in diameter. The one making large patches is a fungus disease and the one making the small patches is also probably a fungus or a living organism of some kind. To summarize: The most significant points brought

out in the brown-patch discussion were, that light applications of Bordeaux mixture (a mixture of bluestone and lime) either as dust or spray, to the leaves of the grass during hot, muggy weather, when trouble is to be expected, will go far toward controlling the big brown-patch, but that apparently Bordeaux is not the least bit effective in the case of the little brown-patch; that the excessive use of Bordeaux, because of the copper it contains, is likely to prove poisonous to the grass, so that the cure becomes worse than the disease itself; that liberal watering seems to be decidedly helpful to the grass during the attacks of either of the brown patches; and, last but not least, that light top-dressings of good compost with possibly a small quantity of ammonium sulfate or preferably some quickly acting organic nitrogenous compound, helps turf in recovering from brown-patch attacks. Attention was particularly called to the matter of watering with relation to brown-patch treatment. At one time it was thought that watering would help spread the disease, but the evidence now seems to be pretty clearly in favor of using lots of water even in the evening.

We talked about crab grass and pearlwort, and all agreed that the time to pull crab grass is when the first leaves appear, not after the grass has branched. There were lots of good questions asked that no one present could answer. Mr. Inglis told us something of how he makes Bermuda greens at Savannah even better than those at the Montgomery Country Club; but this is too important a story to treat briefly here. The time was all too short for the interest that was manifested. Mr. Weir and his party had to get back to the east end of Long Island. Most of us had to catch trains for the city and points beyond. And so the curtain was rung down on a most satisfactory little meeting. Would that we might have more like it!

Does your greenkeeper receive *The Bulletin*? It has come to our attention that a number of clubs are having one of their two copies of *The Bulletin* sent to an address which is not that of their greenkeeper. It is considered important that one of the two copies reach the hands of the greenkeeper promptly.

New Member Clubs of the Green Section

Lafayette Country Club, Syracuse, N. Y.
North Fork Country Club, Catehogue, N. Y.
Colonial Country Club, Harrisburg, Pa.
Forsyth Country Club, Winston-Salem, N. C.
Highland Country Club, Fort Thomas, Kentucky.
Marion Country Club, Marion, Ohio.
Acacia Country Club, Cleveland, Ohio.
Auburn Country Club, Auburn, Indiana.
Lewanee Country Club, Adrain, Michigan.
Willowbrook Golf Club, Hutchinson, Kansas.
Casper Country Club, Casper, Wyoming.

Volume I of *The Bulletin* (1921) has been reprinted and may be obtained in one cover for \$2.25.