

## Greencommitteemen

What are the qualifications of the individual which should govern in the selection of the chairman or active member of the green committee? A questionnaire on this would probably receive as varied an assortment of replies as the one on "equipment needed for a golf course." Certainly it can not be said that the product is standardized. Judging from a somewhat limited observation, two factors are largely responsible for the chairmen of the green committees being in those positions.

1. The chairman is a good golfer and popular with the members; and surely the good golfer should take an interest in having the course in first-class condition.

2. He has a large direct or indirect financial interest in the club. And who should be more interested in its welfare than the man who has put up his good money to bring it into existence?

From an abstract point of view, the chairman of the green committee should be familiar with golf course maintenance, know how to grow grass, what kind of fertilizers to use, when to mow, how to dress the greens, and the fifty-seven other varieties of details connected with greenkeeping. As an additional qualification he should be so constituted mentally that he can derive keen enjoyment out of the knocks of the criticism committee.

It is not the purpose here to elaborate on the value of such an individual. The club that is the fortunate possessor of a member of such parts either has him on the job or there is some valid personal reason for the oversight.

Leaving out of the discussion all supermen and chairmen of green committees who have demonstrated their fitness, let us consider what the newly-organized club and the club that needs to make a change should look for in this important personage.

We should suggest that the most important of all qualifications is the man's willingness to spend the time and energy to study and learn the details of golf course management. As proof of this let us cite one concrete instance out of several which have come to the attention of the Green Section.

A certain club in the early spring of 1922 found it advisable to make a change in the personnel of its green committee. A former member of the house committee was selected. He was a green committeeman in every sense of the term—city raised and without practical experience in the upkeep of a golf course. His club handicap was seven, and needless to say he enjoyed playing the game. This man immediately set out in search of knowledge which might be helpful to him. The first source of information tapped was an old established seed house. He asked their advice as to the best printed work on grasses and was referred to Flint's "Grasses and Forage Plants." As this publication may not be familiar to all it may be noted that it was published about the time that hooped skirts were coming into style. To be exact, the title page bears the imprint of 1858. Flint's "Grasses" gives the analyses of many common hay plants and is illustrated with pictures of the flowering parts of seed heads of the various plants discussed. Our committeeman lost sleep for several nights trying to figure out how to know from chemical analysis what grasses to use on a golf course. He was also puzzled as to how to learn the names of the grasses on his course without letting them go to seed.

His second journey in this quest for knowledge proved more fortunate than the first. He attended a meeting of his district green section and became acquainted with the experienced greenkeepers and greencommit-

teemen of his locality. He heard discussed many of the problems which confronted him. These men he found were willing to give him the benefit of their experience. He also became acquainted with the work of the Green Section of the United States Golf Association and initiated a correspondence which now fills about an inch of space in a vertical filing case.

With the assistance of a representative of the Green Section he took up patches of creeping bent found growing on his course and planted a nursery. This nursery was well tended; and woe befell the hapless player who sliced a ball into it. Within a year from the time this nursery was first planted seven greens were rebuilt after the specifications of a competent architect and planted by the vegetative method. During the year nineteen carloads of mushroom soil were purchased and spread over the fairways. A compost pile was started which should prove ample for the needs of the course. All of this was done and the usual upkeep of the course carried out at an expenditure of \$2,000 less than the customary cost of maintaining the course. This financial saving was due partly to cooperation with his greenkeeper (a man who had been on the course for years) in the more economical utilization of labor, but principally to the saving of \$5,000, which had been the usual annual expenditure for seed on this course.

Some will say that this is an unusual case; and it is, most decidedly. But the exceptional feature is the willingness of this man to study his business and profit by the information which is available to every green-committeeman who desires it.

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**“Creeping Bent Seed”—a Misnomer.**—It has come to our notice that some seedsmen are using the term “creeping bent seed” in correspondence concerning the seed of German mixed bent. While it is true that there is a small proportion of creeping bent seed in the bent seed mixture coming from Germany, the fact should not be lost sight of that only an exceedingly small number of plants of true creeping bent, a species possessing the creeping habit in sufficient degree to be of value as a creeping grass, will be obtained from sowings of German mixed bent seed. These usually become noticeable first as small patches of fine uniform turf about two years after the sowing, the Rhode Island bent being slightly coarser than the creeping bent. Strains of creeping bent vary markedly in their turf-forming habit. Moreover, as pointed out in the second paragraph on page 213 of the August BULLETIN, “German mixed bent seed on a chaff-free other-seed-free basis is composed of approximately 85 per cent of seed of the species commonly known as Rhode Island or Colonial bent and approximately 15 per cent of the one commonly known as velvet bent, and in addition it has a *mere trace* of seed of creeping (or carpet) bent.” *There is no straight seed of true creeping bent on the market*; and this should be borne in mind when negotiations are under way for “German creeping bent seed” or German mixed bent seed. There is also no straight seed of true velvet bent on the market.

The only practicable method of establishing putting greens of straight creeping bent or velvet bent is by vegetative propagation, using selected strains for the purpose.

Rhode Island bent and velvet bent obtained from the German mixed bent seed are good putting green grasses, but they do not possess the pronounced spreading habit of creeping bent.