

Peat in California

Some of our California friends have written us insisting that peat is a valuable material in California, particularly to make stiff clay soils more friable. For such purpose one of them considers \$10 a ton to be a reasonable price. The matter was submitted to Dr. C. B. Lipman, of the University of California, who writes as follows:

"I have your letter of April 16 relative to the value of peat as a fertilizer. From my experiments with peat, and I have made several, I am convinced that in California there is no more value to peat than you have found in the East. Some experiments which I hope to be able to publish this summer show that the availability of nitrogen in peat, even with unusual treatment of the peat, is extremely slow, so slow, in fact, that it gives very little improvement over controlled soil conditions where no treatment is given.

"Two dollars a ton, it seems to me, is entirely too high a figure to pay for peat in view of my experiments with it. As you say, in cases of heavy clay soils, there is unquestionably some advantage in mixing a light substance like peat with them in order to improve the drainage and other conditions, but it is questionable, and in fact very questionable, from my experience, if it would pay on any golf course to apply peat, or in the case of any other land which is growing crops."—*Charles B. Lipman, Professor of Plant Nutrition, University of California.*

An Appreciation from Abroad.—It is almost an every-day occurrence to receive with our morning mail an expression from one of our member-clubs of substantial help which we may have given them in connection with their turf problems. It is not often, however, that an appreciation of the work which the Green Section is doing comes to us from abroad. We therefore take delight in presenting to our readers some kind words from Mr. Harry Colt, who is generally recognized to be the foremost golf architect in Great Britain. In a letter dated July 19, 1923, Mr. Colt writes to Mr. J. Frederic Byers, President of the United States Golf Association, as follows: "I have been meaning to write and thank you very much for so kindly sending to me THE BULLETIN OF THE GREEN SECTION of your Association. Without any exaggeration, I have been extremely interested in the various articles, and especially in those referring to the vegetative planting of putting greens. This especially appeals to me, as I think that I can claim to have been the first to advocate the use of *Agrostis* grasses for putting greens in this country years ago. I heard of your present system of planting out stolons, and am thinking of taking it up in this country. Your Association is doing splendid work by means of your Green Section, and if I may be allowed to do so, I would like to congratulate you on the results."

The Green Section probably makes mistakes, as it is composed of ordinary mortals. It welcomes criticisms just as much—yes, even more—than it desires praise. Please write whenever you feel it is wrong.