UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION

1928 Dates for Championships, and Walker Cup Matches

H. H. Ramsay, Secretary of the United States Golf Association, announces that the Executive Committee at a meeting held in New York City, November 17, decided upon the following dates for the National competitions:

Open Championship:

Qualifying Round, June 11, in various districts; Championship Rounds, June 21, 22 and 23, at Olympia Fields Country Club, Chicago.

Public Links Championship:

July 31 to August 5 at Cobb's Creek Course, Philadelphia.

Amateur Championship:

September 10 to 15, at Brae Burn Country Club, West Newton, Massachusetts.

Women's Championship:

September 24 to 29, at Virginia Hot Springs Golf and Country Club, Virginia Hot Springs, Virginia.

Walker International Cup Matches:

August 30 and 31, at Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, Illinois.

"The Green Section Bulletins have been sent me and are exceedingly interesting, and I am very glad your Committee have permitted their issue to me. The information has already led my club (Western Gailes on the Ayshire seaboard, about five miles from Prestwick) to proceed with a scheme of experimental plots in a small way."—Mr. A. R. Russ, Secretary of the British Golf Union's Joint Advisory Committee, No. 149 West George Street, Glasgow, Scotland.

"To place a bunker guarding the green on the right, and another bunker at the right of the fairway to catch a slice is to double the penalty for an error. The one bunker at the green would have been quite sufficient."—The Links.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

All questions sent to the Green Section will be answered in a letter to the writer as promptly as possible. The more interesting of these questions, with concise answers, will appear in this column each month. If your experience leads you to disagree with any answer given in this column, it is your privilege and duty to write to the Green Section.

While most of the answers are of general application, please bear in mind that each recommendation is intended specifically for the locality designated at the end of the question.

1. Comparing available nitrogen in manure, mushroom soil and other organic fertilizers.—I have been trying to check up through different tables the comparative amounts of available nitrogen in manure, mushroom soil and organic fertilizers. Of course, there is no definite standard of the mechanical condition of manure and mush-

room soil on which to base the tables so there must naturally be wide differences in the estimates.

Until lately I have always thought that for fairway fertilization there was more available nitrogen in mushroom soil than anything else in the way of organic fertilizers at an equal price. We get mushroom soil cheaply, about $3 a ton delivered. Since learning the price of Milorganite and the amount of available nitrogen which it contains, I am wondering whether it is not a better fairway fertilizer than the average grade of mushroom soil which can be obtained. Our soil contains too much clay as it is and most of the inert matter in mushroom soil is clay. Of course, good manure is a splendid fertilizer, but here it is hard to get, expensive, and makes the fairways poor to play on for a considerable period. (Pennsylvania.)

ANSWER.—The composition of stable manure varies widely. On the average a ton contains from 8 to 10 pounds of nitrogen, 8 to 10 pounds of phosphoric acid, and 6 to 8 pounds of potash. Manure is said to lose very little of its fertilizing value as a result of having been used in mushroom beds, and unless mixed with considerable soil should contain about the same amounts of the various plant food constituents as given above.

One ton of Milorganite contains approximately 110 pounds of nitrogen, 50 pounds of phosphoric acid, and 10 pounds of potash. In other words, 1 ton of Milorganite contains about 11 times as much nitrogen as manure or mushroom soil, 5 times as much phosphoric acid, and about the same amount of potash. Based on these elements alone, 1 ton of of Milorganite would be worth about 10 times as much as manure. However, in addition to plant food the manure and mushroom soil supply humus, which is of considerable value in improving the physical character of the soil and in making conditions favorable for bacterial activity. Where the soil is in need of humus the benefits to be derived from the application should be taken into consideration in determining the comparative value of the material. Mushroom soil at $3 a ton is generally considered one of the cheapest fertilizers available. If you feel that you are adding too much clay to your soil through the use of mushroom soil this could be overcome by mixing sand with it.

2. Winter protection of young grass.—We planted two greens with creeping bent stolons in October, but the weather has not been favorable for growth since that time and as a consequence the grass has made little progress. Some new growth of young grass is in evidence, however, and we are wondering whether it is advisable to furnish it a winter protection in the way of a covering of straw or leaves. (Indiana.)

ANSWER.—We doubt very much that any winter injury will occur to the young grass you have on your putting greens. A covering of straw or leaves should do no harm, however, provided it is removed promptly in late winter or early spring when growing conditions become favorable. The covering should be held in place by branches strewn over it, else it is likely to be blown away.

3. **How much slope will creeping bent stand?**—Our greens lie with a natural slope of from 4 to 8 feet in 100 feet. Would this be too fast for bent greens? (Texas.)

ANSWER.—It has been our experience that more than a 2 per cent slope is too much for the average creeping bent green. As a matter of fact, 2 or 3 feet in 100 is as much slope as should be considered for any putting green.

4. **Mowrah meal as an earthworm killer.**—Will mowrah meal kill earthworms, or is it necessary to sweep up the worms after they come to the surface? At what rate should mowrah meal be applied? (New York.)

ANSWER.—Although mowrah meal probably does not actually kill the worms it brings them to the surface, and they rarely, if ever, get back into the soil. It is not necessary to sweep up worms after they come to the surface as they soon die and finally dry up. However, where a green is in use, it is preferable to sweep them off, as the remains interfere with play and present a rather unsightly appearance. Apply mowrah meal at the rate of about 15 pounds to 1,000 square feet of surface and water into the soil. For ridding greens of earthworms we find that corrosive sublimate is by far the most economical and efficient chemical. It may be applied either in a water solution or mixed with sand or similar inert matter. Two ounces of corrosive sublimate dissolved in 50 gallons of water are sufficient for 1,000 square feet of green. It should be washed into the soil by at least twice the quantity of water, immediately after application. When applied dry, mix the corrosive sublimate, 2 ounces to 2 cubic feet of dry sand, and scatter the mixture evenly over 1,000 square feet of green. Liberal watering should follow.

5. **Eradicating clover from creeping bent greens.**—Will you kindly advise me as to the best way of eradicating clover from a bent green? At this time we are using ammonium sulfate, which is a slow process. (New York.)

ANSWER.—After clover once becomes established in a green there is no easy way of eradicating it without seriously injuring or killing the grass. The continued and judicial use of ammonium sulfate will go farther toward accomplishing this end than any other method of fertilization that we know of. Clover can actually be killed with a strong solution of ammonium sulfate, but there is danger of killing the grass if the solution is too strong. Clover plants have been weakened and even killed by saturating them with a solution of 3 pounds of ammonium sulfate dissolved in 10 gallons of water. A solution of this strength will usually injure the grass temporarily, but if given the proper attention it should recover very shortly. We would suggest that you make sure that you are not applying carbonates to your greens in topdressing, either through the use of soil or sand carrying a high percentage of lime. Several cases have come to our observation where the amount of lime applied in this way has been more than sufficient to offset the effect of ammonium sulfate so far as its increasing the soil acidity is concerned.

AS WE FIND THEM

Heard a salesman proclaiming to a group of greenkeepers the wonders of his new mower. Oh, boy, what a machine! "It runs like a 17-jeweled watch, never 'scalps' the turf, a child may push it, seldom if ever requires adjustment, no trouble to sharpen, it will stand up under any rough treatment," etc. If pressed, he probably would have claimed his mower could almost think for itself.

Then someone broke up the party by reminding him that when mowers such as he described were produced there would be no need for salesmen to persuade greenkeepers to buy them. The company manufacturing them would have to call in all its sales' force, arm the whole staff and post it about the factory to hold the greenkeepers back.

Do you know the salesman who, in his sales talks, always manages to bring out the information that he is Chairman of the Green Committee of "So-and-so Golf Club"? That point makes a big difference. It proves he is a "practical" man. He tells of the simply marvelous results obtained on his course (practically owned by his company) with the chemical he is selling. "No sir, we don't take any chances with our beautiful greens and we don't try out any of those new-fangled chemicals which have not been tested thoroughly."

Well, well, how convincing! We do admire caution in a C. G. C. In his case, however, if he used other chemicals on his greens would it not remind one of the old vaudeville joke of the proprietor of a restaurant who "has just stepped out for lunch," or of Henry Ford driving down town in a Chevrolet.

When a listener interrupted a fertilizer agent to ask about a competitive product the salesman frankly admitted "it is good stuff and gives excellent results."

We had to take a second look at that fellow. It was a relief to find a salesman who had sufficient confidence in his wares to enable him to speak truthfully of the other man's product.

Those who sell golf clubs large quantities of commercial humus, peat or similar materials at fancy prices still have a prosperous appearance. Their sales talks are far more potent than the stuff they sell. The prosperity of this business is simply another bit of evidence in support of the oft-repeated claim: "People like to be fooled."

After watching some salesmen dispose of their goods to golf clubs one is forced to wonder just how many rainjackets a good salesman might not sell to a golf club in the desert of Sahara.