



NEWS LETTER

December, 1930.

Vol. 2, No. 12.

*"Not what we give, but what we SHARE
For the gift without the giver is bare;
Who GIVES HIMSELF with his alms feeds three,
Himself, his hungry neighbor and ME."*

—Lowell

We are glad to have this opportunity to wish for all of the friends of NEWSLETTER a very happy Christmas. As a special Christmas surprise, we are pleased to announce that Mr. Orville Clapper, Mgr. of the New England Toro Company, has presented a dozen Toro Golf Balls, to be awarded the writer of the best article for NEWSLETTER on the subject "Problems of the Past Season and How I Solved Them." This competition will close on March 15th, and we hope that all members will send in their articles to compete for the prize. Articles may be in long hand or typewritten, on one side of the paper only, and should be sent to the Editor. This competition is open to all members of the Greenkeepers Club, all have an equal chance—here is an opportunity to win a dozen golf balls!

Plan to attend the annual meeting in Boston, probably on January 5th. You should be interested in the proceedings of this meeting.

This NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Greenkeepers Club of New England, and sent free to its members and their Greens' Chairmen. Subscription price ten cents a copy, or a dollar a year.

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MEETING WITH NEW ENGLAND AGRONOMISTS

Several of our members accepted with pleasure the kind invitation extended the club to meet with the New England Agronomists at the Saturday morning session of their annual meeting, held at the Hotel Bellevue, Boston, on November 29th.

At this meeting a symposium on Turf Experiments for Lawns and Golf Courses was presented. The first speaker was Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. Professor Dickinson spoke on "Strains and Varieties of Golf Grasses for the Northeastern States—classification, adaptation, and disease studies." Professor Dickinson brought out that the game of golf requires—for tees a continuous turf capable of withstanding close clipping ($\frac{3}{8}$ "") that gives a firm footing, and can be easily cut into by the club; for **fairways**, a continuous turf capable of being closely clipped (1") and strong enough to hold a golf ball well off the ground, must also assure a firm footing; for the **green**, a continuous turf capable of being very closely clipped ($\frac{1}{4}$ "- $\frac{3}{8}$ "") and to offer uniform resistance to a rolling ball without deflecting it from its initial course; for the **rough**, an open turf having hollows large enough to hold a golf ball, yet not deep enough to make it difficult to find the ball; also tufts of grass in sand traps and on bunker tops and face.

The first consideration to the average golfer is that playing conditions are ideal. Soil, climate, and fertilizer requirements are secondary.

In the genus *poa*, Kentucky Blue prefers alkaline soils, well drained, is adapted to fairways, but not to putting greens, or rough, is a fair tee grass.

Canada Blue can be used on fairways on poor clay soils, makes a fair rough if frequently clipped. Rough stalked meadow prefers alkaline soil, in shaded locations, can be used on tee, fairway, and green, better if used in conjunction with a basic grass. Annual blue enjoys any soil having plenty of food elements, undesirable except on tees.

Among desirable fescues, European red fescue is adapted to light sandy soils, can be used anywhere, but alone only on green or rough. Chewings fescue is a better grass than European red except for rough. Sheeps fescue is best suited for soils having low fertility, especially sandy, best of rough grasses, undesirable anywhere else. Fine leaved fescue is very desirable for shaded tees if mixed with rough stalk meadow grass, prefers a light sandy loam, neutral or alkaline. Hard fescue is suitable only for dry sandy rough areas, especially along pine margins.

Of the desirable bents, red top is used only as a nurse grass. Colonial bent prefers moderately heavy acid soils, is excellent for fairways, very good for greens, good for tees, poor for rough. Creeping bent demands an acid soil rather high in clay content, is not so popular as it was six years ago, used on greens and tees; is propagated from stolons, no pure seed being available. German bent demands an acid soil, is excellent for greens, turf is never of one texture. Velvet bent prefers an acid soil, is best putting green grasses; propagated from stolons or seed. Seaside bent withstands frequent salt water washings, prefers acid soil of a rather open texture.

Other grasses occasionally used include Awnless brome, adapted to sand traps, on sand bunker mounds; Poverty grass, adapted to gravelly soils for the rough, also for bunkers.

Most troublesome diseases are small brown-patch which attacks all bents and is frequently fatal to grass; large brown-patch which attacks creeping bent, and colonial bent, seldom fatal, seldom seriously affects velvet bent, only occasionally appears in fairways or on grasses other than bents; zonate eyespot, partial to blue grass, but also found on bents, in New England it has been of no alarming consequence; leaf spot, attacking Kentucky blue; and colletotrichum, on annual blue grass.

The second speaker was Dr. H. B. Sprague of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Sprague

told of his "Experiments with Fertilizers and Lime for Lawns and Golf Courses in the Northeastern States." This work is explained in detail in the recent Bulletin 497, "Experiments with Turf Grasses in New Jersey" from the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at New Brunswick, N. J., a copy of which was passed to those present. (It would prove of interest and help to all greenkeepers.) Dr. Sprague brought out that acidity had not controlled weeds with them in all cases, that as there are many varieties of weeds, acidity probably affects some weeds differently than others. Plots heavily limed, and which also received nitrate of ammonia had as few weeds as the sulphate of ammonia plots. Experiments with lead arsenate were also explained.

Dr. T. E. Odland of the Rhode Island Experiment Station spoke concerning the work being done at the R. I. Station, "Experiments in Soil Acidity Control and in Seed Production of Bent Grasses," and showed several lantern slides of various plots, etc. We present a copy of the outline given those present, as it gives a large amount of interesting information concerning the work being done at the Rhode Island Station:

"The R. I. Agricultural Experiment Station has for many years been interested in the study of soil acidity. The effect of soil reaction on the growth of lawn grasses is a phase of these studies that received early attention. An experiment started in 1893 with sulphate of ammonia compared with nitrate of soda as the nitrogen source demonstrated that redtop and Rhode Island bent would thrive under the more acid-soil conditions produced by the sulphate of ammonia than could Kentucky bluegrass. Liming the soil was beneficial to the bluegrass but not to the bent and redtop.

In 1904 further experiments devoted exclusively to lawns were started. Fertilizers calculated to produce acid, neutral and alkaline soil reactions were to be compared. Some of these plots are still being maintained in accordance with the original plans. Sulphate of ammonia is used on the plats where an acid reaction was desired and nitrate of soda on the neutral and alkaline plats. Kentucky bluegrass, Rhode Island bent, red fescue, redtop, and several mixtures were seeded on these plats at the beginning of the experiment. At

the end of 12 years estimates were made of the condition of these plats as to composition, vigor and weed infestation. Similar data were obtained at the end of a second 12-year period in 1928. The most striking thing observed at both times was the freedom from weeds in the plats with the acid reaction. The Kentucky bluegrass had practically all disappeared in the acid plats at the end of the first 12-year period. A more vigorous growth of vegetation was noticeable on the medium and alkaline plats but this material included considerable weeds. The Rhode Island bent had persisted better on the acid than on the medium or alkaline plats. The same was true of redtop. Red fescue persisted well under both acid and alkaline conditions but there were less weeds on the acid plat. Similar conditions to the above were also found at the end of 24 years in 1928. In 1928 the pH of these plats ranged from 4.4. to 8.0.

During 1926 and 1927 a survey of the golf courses in Rhode Island was made and among other data the soil reaction was ascertained. The general condition of the greens was graded according to classes designated A, B, C, and D. The best greens, included in Class A, ranged in pH from 4.6 to 5.5 with an average of 5.06, B from 4.7 to 6.2 average 5.41, C 5.1 to 7.0 average 5.77 and one course D with an average of 5.7. The better greens apparently were those with a fairly acid-soil reaction.

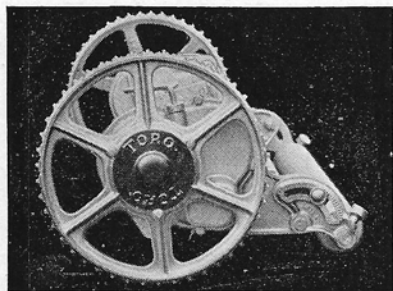
In 1928 the station started a number of experiments with bent grasses for seed production. The seed setting ability of different strains and varieties of bents are being compared under uniform fertilization while different fertilizers are compared on Rhode Island bent. A seed crop varying from approximately 50 to 300 pounds per acre was obtained this year. Kernwood was among the highest producing velvet bents while the Washington strain was among the highest producers in the creeping bents. Astoria and Rhode Island were about equal in seed production and out-yielded Seaside bent. A fertilizer high in nitrogen such as a 6-10-3 or 6-6-1 produced the best seed yields of Rhode Island bent. Varying the phosphoric acid and potash had little effect upon the quantity of seed produced."

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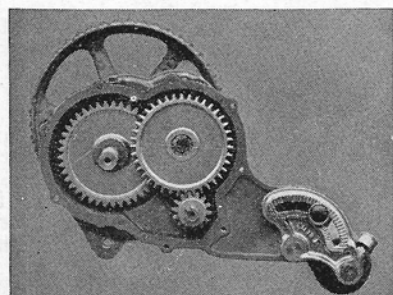
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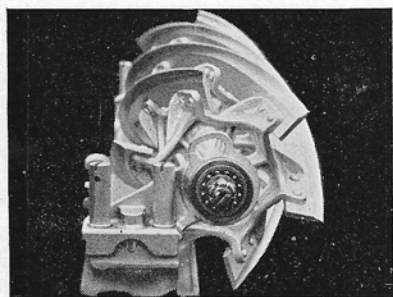
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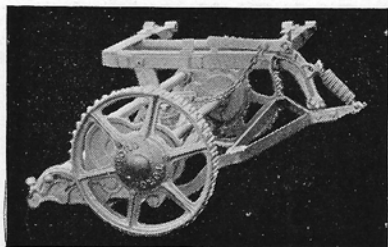
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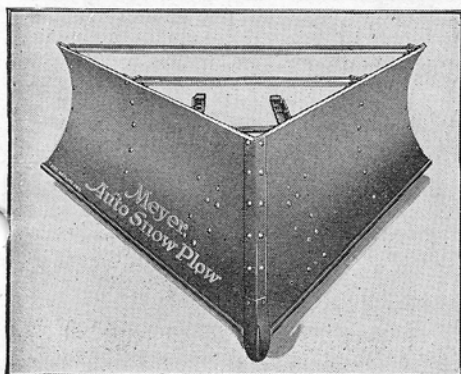
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DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting was held at the Narragansett Hotel, Providence, R. I., on December 1st, the club meeting with the Rhode Island and Connecticut Associations. Following lunch, R. Wallace Peckham, President of the Rhode Island Association introduced Dr. T. E. Odland of the Rhode Island Experiment Station. Dr. Odland spoke on the types of grasses for golf courses, and explained the work being done at the station with fertilizers in the control of weeds. Of the bent grasses, recent work on red top shows that there may be different strains. Also, R. I. bent, Western bents, including some like Rhode Island and some creeping, Astoria, Oregon, are of varying importance. Some varieties or strains of creeping bent are satisfactory if handled right, are not so popular as formerly. Virginia and Columbia strains are not recommended. Seaside bent, including Cocos strains, are used. German mixed bent, with most velvet bent is best. There are many strains of velvet bent, some seem to be more resistant to disease than others. Arlington or No. 14276 are good at Washington, Kernwood is very good at Kingston, best seed producer of any velvet bent.

In the seed production experiments, there are plots of all varieties and strains. Uncleaned seed in pounds per acre:

Red top	412
R. I. bent	306
Astoria	317
Seaside	216
Cocos	235
Washington	350
Virginia	408
Metropolitan	146*
Arlington velvet	201
Kernwood	403
Highland	308

*Probably not a fair test.

On plots where fertilizers were applied on R. I. bent for seed production, pounds per acre:

check	72
ratio 1-6-3	75
2-6-3	169
4-6-3	246
6-6-3	374
6-2-3	322
6-10-3	356
6-6-1	379
6-6-5	322

Dr. H. F. A. North described a trip made this past Summer to the seed producing regions of Prince Edward Island. There are some three hundred farmers, with 1500 acres of Colonial bent, producing 32,000 pounds of seed, 30 acres of velvet bent, 25 acres of seaside bent, probably not much creeping bent. An association, P. E. T. Grass Seed Corp., Inc., cleans the seed and markets it; all that is sold in this country is sold through McCulloch. Seed fields are inspected by August 1st. The industry is not important, as farmers have diversified agriculture. Very little fertilizing is done, some phosphoric acid and potash, limited to better farmers. At cleaning, lots of like quality are grouped into three grades 1, 2, 3, ten cents more per pound per grade. Only No. 1 seed is sold in Canada.

Pres. J. W. Whitehead of the Conn. Association brought greetings from his association.

A short business meeting followed.

In a recent letter from one of our members, some questions are discussed which are of interest to all of us, and we are turning these questions over to Frank Wilson, Chairman of the Information Committee. These questions deal with brown-patch sprays with a spreader (casein), and whether the material should be bought ready mixed or mixed by the greenkeeper; if so, proportions, cost, etc.; also question of whether it would pay to buy chlorophenol mercury and urea separately and mix.

These questions arose from a discussion between a greenkeeper and his green chairman. Such discussions are of great value, and we all could benefit from them if you all would send in the problems you discuss, and any answers you may find.

Gerald Simonetti, Associate of Woodworth Bradley, lost two fingers on a machine he had sharpened in Bradley's shop. He will be laid up quite awhile, but says to tell the boys not to get discouraged as he will be out bright and early next Spring to pester them just the same.

We understand that the Braeburn Country Club of West Newton, Mass. has hired twenty extra men to clean around the course, as a means of helping the unemployment situation.

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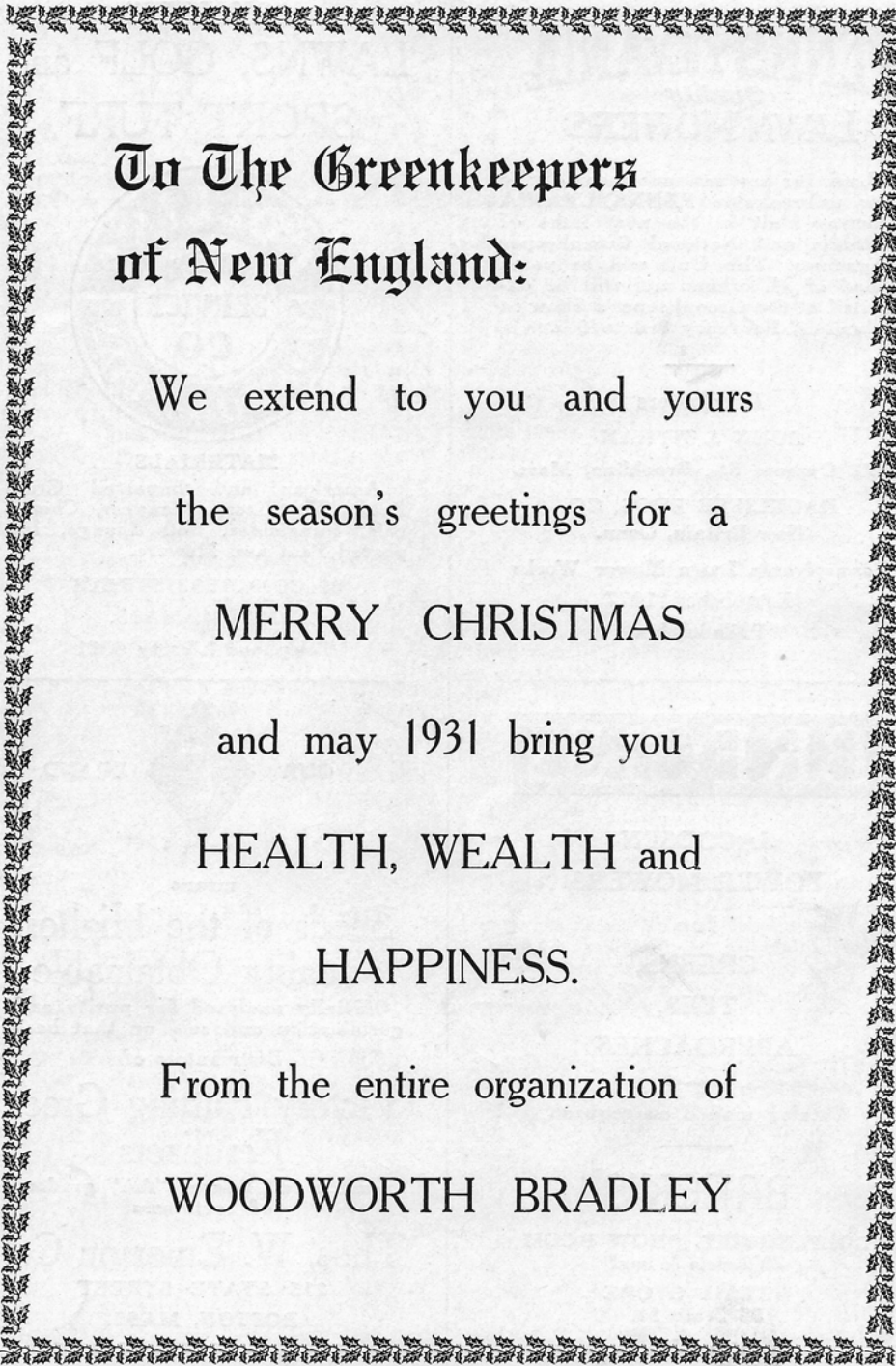
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