

GOLF CLUB GOVERNING RULES

Will the day ever arrive when each golf club has self-government as far as rules governing play are concerned? There is not a club in existence but harbors at least a dozen men who are prepared to prove that the lawmakers are incapable; and, to go further, no club exists but that 50 per cent of its members are not only ignorant of the rules, but never play a round without breaking a rule. When a man joins a social club he expects to be governed by the laws of the club, and he is given a book of rules to which members are naturally expected to conform.

The member studies these and soon learns the method of procedure—what to do in the event of a raid, the position of the straight switch, and many other things for the upholding and furtherance of the club's interest. But how different when he is the aim! He discovers that addition to the rules that must be observed inside—which, after all, are minor details—those to guide him outside are calculated to make him sorry that he ever took the plunge and wonder if he could prevail upon the treasurer to refund his entrance fee and subscription. And the more he gets to know, the more he despairs of ever being able to master the rules of golf.

But if a club framed its own rules, all this fear would be done away with. There would then need be no book for suggestions. Probably the first ruling which would be dropped from the category would be that relating to "striking opponent's caddy." The employer of the stricken one not only loses the hole, but what is probable and much more drastic, loses the services of the youngster for the rest of the round. It is a certainty that a boy is not going to be struck by a decent stroke, for the average baggater knows where to stand, but he is more often brought down by a stroke that was never meant to go in his direction. The ruling should be the reverse, with the notion that the striker should compensate the lad for the damage brought about by his incompetence and lose the hole for his incompetence and lose the hole for his wicked act.

LOST BALL, LOST HOLE, LAW
The next to go would be the "lost ball, lost hole" law, in which the offender not only loses the sphere, but to make it more impressive and bring home the seriousness of the offence, the hole is lost, and should the unfortunate one be at the time all square and one to play, his temper plus the match goes also. Such unfair punishment cannot be based on common-sense; therefore, the home rules would not permit the injustice. If some rule should ever take hold there would be many interesting phases, especially so in regard to a system of handicapping. The members we will assume, are conscious of their own limitations, and despite the fact that their best player frequently does the round below 80, they all agree his handicap should be 10 and the others in proportion. Medals would doubtless be won with net scores of 50 or thereabouts, but what matter if each player possessed an equal chance?

In the course of time some of the members might want to go to an open meeting to measure their skill against others, and—but let us leave it at this, merely pointing out the possibilities and advantages of the system. The committee at the present time only sits in judgement where local rules are concerned, and these being known to nearly every member, the club tribunal has an easy task; but, oh, St. Andrew's, what a reckoning will be yours when all rules are made clear, even to the veriest nincompoop and breaker of laws!

MAINTENANCE OF COURSES
It is safe to say that as regards the preparation and maintenance of all ground set apart for outdoor pastimes that devoted to golf occupies the attention of amateurs to a degree that has no counterpart in other realms of sport. This is not difficult to understand, as the work of designing and constructing a course offers wide scope for the exercise of the inventive faculties. Again, unlike other areas for the playing of games, the room for further improvement is ever present on a golf course, and the committees of most clubs are constantly giving attention to fresh developments and alterations.

Given a committee having the welfare of their club at heart, they are likely to infuse into their work as much enthusiasm and energy as they might be expected to display in more personal matters. On their visits to other links, for instance, they are keen on noting the most up-to-date methods of treatment and design, while they compare notes with their golfing friends who are interested in similar subjects. It is obvious, of course, that knowledge of this kind can only be acquired gradually and by practical experience, and it is not every one who is able to devote the necessary time to the subject. When a member of a committee, however, has the leisure and the inclination for this interesting hobby he may be able to render valuable service to his club. Such a one should certainly take a foremost place in the management of the course.

Unless a club should be fortunate enough to number among its members an authority on course architecture, it is not advisable in the initial stages to depend entirely upon the ordinary committee. Such a policy, often undertaken from

motives of economy, generally defeats its particular object. Errors are made which might have been avoided, and, as a consequence, the funds are wasted, while there is also the danger of considerable dissension among the committee. At the outset, it is wiser in every way to engage a qualified man, and be guided by his advice. Later on, alterations may suggest themselves which the club officials may carry out effectually.

It is most necessary also that the amateur greenkeeper should study the composition of the soil on his course, in order that he may be in a position to advise as to the proper dressings to use, and unless the official has acquired a practical knowledge of the necessities mistakes may be made. When a club is fortunate enough to have a man on the committee who is prepared to devote a good part of his leisure to furthering the interests of his club, it is to the advantage of the members to retain him in that capacity as long as possible.—*New York Evening Post.*

PROTECTION OF CROPS

Crop protection means crop production. Canada loses over one hundred million dollars worth of her staple crops every year through the depredations of insect pests. A large portion of this loss could be prevented. As we cannot afford to lose the smallest portion of our grain and other food crops during the present critical period when the production of food is of supreme importance, the Dominion Department of Agriculture is making every effort to prevent, so far as possible, losses due to insect pests. Crop protection must go hand in hand with crop production.

Insect pests are not usually noticed or reported until they have caused considerable damage. Therefore it is urged that the closest watch be kept on all crops for the first appearance of any insect pests or damage. Immediately such damage is observed steps should be taken to control the outbreak in its incipient stage. If the pest or the method of control is unknown specimens of the insect and its injuries should be sent at once to the nearest of the following sources of expert assistance: The Agricultural Colleges, the Provincial Departments of Agriculture or their local District Representatives, the officer in charge of the nearest Dominion Entomological Station, or direct to the Dominion Entomologist, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, for examination; and advice in regard to control measures will be furnished without delay. Letters and packages up to 11 ounces in weight may be mailed to the Dominion Entomologist, "Free," but postage will be required on letters or specimens sent to the other sources of advice mentioned.

Do not delay reporting insect outbreaks or seeking inquiries; delay may involve serious losses that could otherwise be prevented. Write immediately, or telegraph if the outbreak is serious. Clean farming, the securing of vigorous growth in young plants and good cultivation are the best protective measures against insect attack. Keep all crops constantly under supervision: for the first appearance of any damage in order that it may be checked without delay. Increased crop production involves increased protection against pests.

CROP REPORTS

Ottawa, June 13, 1917. The Census and Statistics Office issued today a preliminary estimate of the areas sown to grain crops this spring, with a report of their condition on May 31 as compiled from the returns of crop correspondents. The reports from the prairie provinces state that the spring there is very backward, and seeding is consequently late. At the end of May severe frosts cut down the growing wheat plant; but rapid recovery was anticipated. Rain was needed for the germination of the later-sown crops and of wheat sown on stubble.

AREA AND CONDITION OF WHEAT
It is estimated from the reports of correspondents that the total area sown to wheat for 1917 is 13,450,250 acres, as compared with 14,857,000 acres, the area sown, and with 12,900,000 acres, the area harvested in 1916. Thus, the area sown this year, whilst nearly 10 per cent less than the area sown for 1916, is about 4 per cent more than the area harvested for 1916. In arriving at these figures revised returns of the Census of 1916 have been included for Manitoba; for Saskatchewan and Alberta similar revisions have not yet been completed. As compared with the areas sown for 1916, the returns this year indicate small increases under wheat in each of the Atlantic provinces and in British Columbia and an increase of 25,000 acres in Quebec; but for each of the remaining provinces decreases are reported to the extent of 154,000 acres in Ontario, 254,000 acres in Manitoba, 327,000 acres in Saskatchewan and 158,000 acres in Alberta. Of the total area under wheat 805,250 acres were sown last fall and 12,641,000 acres were sown this spring. In the three prairie provinces the total area sown to wheat is estimated at 12,497,550 acres, comprising 2,476,850 acres in Manitoba, 7,635,700 acres in Saskatchewan and 2,415,700 acres in Saskatchewan and 2,415,000 acres in Alberta.

The average condition on May 31 in per cent of the standard representing a full crop is for all wheat for Canada 84

per cent as compared with 90 per cent on May 31 last year and with 91 per cent the average condition on the corresponding date for the seven years ended 1916. In the prairie provinces the condition of wheat is 87 per cent of the standard in Manitoba, 80 per cent in Saskatchewan and 92 per cent in Alberta. Converted into a standard of 100 as representing the average condition at the end of May of the past seven years 1910-16 the condition for the whole of Canada of fall wheat is 86, of spring wheat 94, and of all wheat 93 per cent. Thus, according to its reported condition on May 31, the anticipated yield per acre of wheat this year is 7 per cent less than the average of the seven years 1910-16.

AREA AND CONDITION OF OTHER CROPS
The decrease in the area sown to wheat this year is partly due to the curtailment of the seeding season by the lateness of the spring, and efforts were therefore apparently directed towards an increase in the area sown to other crops. For oats, the acreage is 11,781,900 acres as compared with 11,376,346 acres, the area sown, and 9,876,346 acres, the area harvested last year. Barley is sown to 1,554,100 acres, as against 1,827,790 acres, the area sown, and 1,681,180 acres, the area harvested in 1916. Rye has a sown area of 1,094,470 acres, as compared with 1,477,170 acres in 1916; peas 152,465 acres, compared with 159,680 acres; mixed grains 638,250 acres, as compared with 410,725 acres; hay and clover 7,651,800 acres, against 7,802,932 acres; and alfalfa 84,900 acres, against 89,472 acres. The condition of these crops in per cent of the standard representing a full crop is for oats 85 per cent compared with 90 p. c. last year and 86 p. c., the average at the end of May for the seven years 1910-16; for barley 87 p. c. as against 89 p. c. last year and 92 p. c., the seven years' average; for rye 86 p. c., against 91 p. c. last year and 89 p. c., the average; for peas 89 p. c. compared with 90 p. c. last year and 91, the average; for mixed grains 80 p. c. both this year and last year and 92 p. c., the average; for hay and clover 80 p. c. compared with 98 p. c. and 92 p. c., the average.

CONDITIONS IN ALBERTA

A telegram from the Alberta Department of Agriculture dated June 12 states that the general season is somewhat late, especially between Wetaskiwin and Crossfield. The weather is cool, but crops are doing well. No frost has been reported since June 5. All grain for threshing is sown, but there is 40 p. c. for green feed yet to sow. There is plenty of moisture in all parts.

Jack—"I can't decide whether to go in for painting or poetry." Jill—"I'd go for painting if I were you." Jack—"Then you've seen some of my paintings." Jill—"Oh, no; but I've heard some of your poetry!"—*Puck.*

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