

scheme impracticable or very costly. A hopeful idea is to find a good grass that will withstand salt, which crab grass will not do. Several such grasses are known, but none of them yet found make fine enough turf. Crab grass will not grow in shade, but no genius has yet devised a satisfactory scheme to shade a putting green. The salt-grass solution of the problem is still the most hopeful one; but in the meantime hand weeding is effective, and, it may be added, necessary, if the green is to be kept good.

Dear Bill Letter II

Richland Center, N. Y.,
May 1, 1921.

DEAR BILL:

I'm glad to hear you finally came out of your trance and started to build your golf course yourself. You'll have the time of your life and I'll bet four bucks you beat the experts to death.

Don't forget, Bill, that a golf course is just like a railroad in one respect. They tell a story about asking an old-time railroad president on the witness stand what the first essential of a good roadbed was and he answered drainage. To the question what the second or next most important consideration was, he said more drainage; and still more drainage was the third. Just so with your course. Put it in and be liberal with it.

Whatever else you do, stick to your architect's plan and follow his advice. If you hired some regular portrait painter to get up a picture of your wife you wouldn't think of changing it yourself. You let the plans alone, and if you don't fancy anything speak to your architect about it and give him a chance to reason it out for you. He knows his profession and you don't. If he is making a mistake, let him alone, as he'll correct it. When you get through, your course will look like something and will reflect the individuality of your architect; otherwise it will show as much feeling and be as inspiring as a plate of goulash.

Say, Bill, keep your eye on the men working on the job. When you find a man who catches on and is taking an interest in the work, try to keep him for your regular gang. A good picked crew on a golf course can do more and better work than twice as many hit-or-miss clock-watchers, and you can afford to pay them liberally.

Why should you ask me how you can finish traps and bunkers that are not fully covered by your plans? Guess you haven't looked about you much while you have been playing golf all these years. Go look at some of the good bunker work on the course near you. A bad bunker stands out like a lighthouse in a fog. A good one asserts itself and looks "fearsome," as Sandy would say; but just the same it looks as though Nature left it there. The lines are smooth and flowing and it sort of melts as it were into the background.

Drainage, Bill, don't forget it. See that your traps and bunkers all drain. Get the surface drainage and use tile when necessary.

Don't just dig a hole and throw the dirt up for a back and call it a bunker. Get some pep and style in it. A good bunker is just as pretty as a green. While you are at it, do the job good. Get some sheep's fescue or any heavy bunchy stuff and sow it for whiskers. No bunker is right until its whiskers stick out on its back to warn the player that it's no nice place to get in. If your bunker is big enough, stick some bunches

of fescue in the sand in the bottom just as though they grew there naturally. Did you ever notice a cave-in on the side of a hill or embankment or on the side of a dune on the shore? The next time you do, notice the tufts or bunches of rough grass.

Little did I think a year ago you would be eligible for the "Nut Club" by this time. No more happy days of golf for you. You'll have more interest in your turf and greens than in your shots. When you see a loose divot lying on the surface you'll feel that some criminal had done you a wrong that never can be forgiven.

Why, Bill, in a year you'll take more interest in a pile of horse manure than in the latest ball; but I'm not sure that you'll get less fun out of it than the chap who thinks of nothing but his game.

Go at it hard, old man. There's no sense wasting time half doing anything. If you are going to play a game, play it hard. There's a world of money wasted and damage done every year by members of green committees who think any half-wit can grow grass and who do not take the pains to study and find out what they are talking about. When your troubles bother you, take your pen in hand and write me. I may not know a lot, and a good deal of what I know may not be so, but I love to talk about it, and you'll get something out of it. A blind sow will pick up an acorn once in a while, and I'll be right occasionally.

Sorry to hear little Billie has been sick, but don't worry. You've had everything but religion yourself and got through.

Yours,
CHAUNCEY.

Questions and Answers

All questions sent to the Green Committee will be answered as promptly as possible in a letter to the writer. 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 Committee.

1. *I would like to know what grasses you recommend for golf greens adapted to our soil, which is thin—some clay, but more sand. It does not hold moisture well. The club here would like to improve its greens. G. W. K., Richmond, Va.*

At Richmond you are near the southern limit of where bluegrass and redtop can be successfully grown on fairways, and about the northern limit of where Bermuda grass is satisfactory. The chances are that even if you seed your fairways to bluegrass and redtop, considerable Bermuda grass will come in, and white clover is practically certain to do so, also considerable Japan clover in summer—and crab grass, of course. Our advice, however, would be to seed the fairways to bluegrass and redtop in the proportion of 8 pounds of bluegrass to 1 pound of redtop. Your best time of seeding would be September 15. If you plant in the spring the preparation of the seed bed will encourage the crab grass enormously and most of your seeding of the perennial grasses will be destroyed. On the other hand you could easily plant the fairways to Bermuda grass this spring. Bermuda grass makes a good fairway, but the trouble is that it turns brown with the first frost in autumn. The turf during winter will be