

upon; and your seed bed should be made of the best soil and taken care of vigilantly and as delicately as you would your putting-greens.

I could write volumes on fairways, green construction, trap construction and the care of them; drainage, fertilizers, soils, etc., etc., but all of them are as naught and unimportant compared with the putting-green.

Keep your putting-greens clean!

Dear Chauncey Letter I

HAZLEWOOD FLATS, IND., September 6, 1921.

DEAR CHAUNCEY:

I'm much obliged for your letter, but you might as well come off your high horse and drop the air of superiority you have assumed. I'd feel a little more like trying a sample or two of your advice to see how it works if it did not carry with it the strong suggestion of finality. You'd make me feel that by following in your steps I can avoid mistakes and get to perfection by the shortest and easiest way.

If you ever go bust in the hardware business and have to make a living you certainly must become an expert, for with your airs and attitude of mind and your ability to respond with an answer to any question you'd have them all beat. I think you'd be able to run a correspondence school in greenkeeping and get away with it.

Now, Chauncey, let's understand each other. I enjoy and profit by your letters because I think you've progressed a good deal as an amateur greenkeeper, but you are a long shot from knowing it all; and just so you'll know I've got your number let me remind you of the ton of worm-destroyer you have in your barn that was sold to you as a favor and at twice the cost of other kinds quite as efficient. Have you forgotten the fertilizer you bought because it was "complete"? You thought you had it on the world because you were able to buy a fertilizer that contained all the essential elements—nitrogen, potash, and phosphorus. You learned all right what constitutes a complete fertilizer, but it cost you about \$50 a ton extra to do it, and even at that rate you bought so much that you had it around the place for two years.

In the course of your education you "have fell" for all the experts, one after another, and in many cases twice in the same place.

Instead of pretending to be old John W. Wiseman himself why don't you come right out and show neophytes like me the scars and sore spots on you that resulted from your contact with experts? I'd feel safer asking you a question about machinery or tools because the loft of your barn looks like a museum; it's packed with junk that you've paid high prices for and found perfectly useless. You have tried everything under the sun, and you ought to know. But don't forget that I understand that you were at the head of the sucker list yourself just a few years ago. Your advice will be more likely to be taken if you'll make it a little more interesting by showing in each case how you got your experience. A reformed drunkard was always more appealing as a prohibition advocate than some presiding elder who thought grenadine as sinful as absinthe.

Don't pose, Chauncey, and don't pretend or even let people believe that so far as experts are concerned you have been or are unsullied—a

virgin, so to speak; for if any one ever got his'n, you're him. I want your help, and I want it bad; but I don't want you to forget I've got your number; and I know you've been through what I am going through, and for that reason I want your advice accompanied by an illustrated lecture showing when, where, and how you made your mistakes.

Say, Chauncey, I'm up against it hard this time and want you to help me out. You know old Henry G. Burns—the tightest thing on earth; he could save money where the Scotch would give up in despair. Well, he has played a couple of times on the Long River course, and he swears it is the best course and the best-kept course in the country and that it only cost \$15,000 to maintain last year. You know and I know it can't be considered a real course when compared with yours or ours; but just the same the old fossil has me on my toes all the time, and I must either get busy with an explanation of why it costs us \$25,000 a year against the \$15,000 spent at Long River, or shut up. It's all right to know that we are not wasting any money here, but I am up against it and must show the differences in the figures, and I must be in shape to make Henry eat his words. If you'll help me satisfy or silence Henry I'll take back the cruel words indicating that once even you were on the sucker list.

You can expect business to be poor until the losses of the country have been absorbed and the dead buried. I'm no clairvoyant, but there'll be nothing for at least a year. Ask me a year from now and then I'll tell you when to ask again.

Yours,

BILL.

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. *We have an abundance of very fine leaf-mold or humus nearby and would like to know if you consider this beneficial as a fertilizer for putting-greens. The soil is heavy clay; would you suggest putting on the pure humus or mixing it with sand or loam? Also what grass mixture is advisable for such a soil? We would like a grass that would spread. H. B. V., New York.*

This matter is treated very fully in No. 4 of THE BULLETIN, a copy of which will be mailed in a day or two. Briefly, leaf-mold is very desirable material for using in compost heaps, but not desirable for using alone unless the material is spaded in and mixed in the soil. As a topdressing it dries up and blows away, and is not recommended. We do not know what you have reference to as "pure humus" unless it is some of the commercial forms called humus, but which are really mucks. These are altogether too costly in proportion to any value they may have, and some of them are toxic. None of them should be used unless seeds will germinate in them readily. Under your conditions a mixture we would recommend for the fairways would be 4 pounds of Kentucky bluegrass to 1 pound of redtop. It is possible that your soil conditions are not such that bluegrass will