

Sargent Discusses Greens

The Central Ohio District Green Section held its first meeting of 1930 at the Elks Club, Columbus. About 40 came and they were well repaid for their efforts in making the trip from their clubs by the instructive talks given by men who know, and the questions which were discussed pro and con in open forum.

G. M. Trautman, secretary of the district, opened the meeting with effective remarks, followed by President Young who expressed his pleasure with the attendance and the interest shown at these meetings which has been very gratifying.

Professor George M. McClure of Ohio State University gave a short talk and outlined the policies of the meetings and the benefits to be derived from the discussions of the various topics, criticisms, etc.

George Sargent of Scioto Country Club then took the floor and entertained with a most practical and instructive outline of what a putting green should be. His talk was a wonderful explanation from the golfer's standpoint, but acknowledged the fact that what the greenkeeper considers a perfect green does not really satisfy the golfer—it is either too slow or full of grain for true putting unless it is cut close to the ground and almost shows the soil beneath, which is almost too much for the grass to stand. This is continually a detriment to the general health and growth of grass itself. As a result the greenkeeper is between the devil and the deep sea all the time to know what the golfer expects of a true putting surface, especially since the coming of the bents which to many are proving very troublesome owing to the various strains used and their uncertainty on different soils and locations.

Mr. Sargent, like many others, was frank in the statement that ere long we would be pleased to welcome a change back to seeded greens, but with bent as a base, which he believes would partly solve our troubles in greenkeeping and give the golfer a truer putting surface.

The advent of putting greens came at the time lawn mowers were introduced to replace the scythe which up to that time was the only means of cutting grass short enough to encourage a place called a putting green. With the lawn mower came the troubles for the greenkeepers; it brought in problems on more scientific lines with cutting grass so short.

The Scioto Mentor emphasized the necessity of having more past history on what has been done in all branches of golf course construction which has proved

successful from the old methods and not rely on new fangled ideas and guess work. He was very sincere in giving Walter Frairs of Garden City, L. I., much credit as a pioneer in broadening the viewpoint and causing wide-spread efforts among the golf clubs of America to determine what a putting green should be. This brought about to a large extent its present condition.

Now Is the Time

Your fairways and greens take up their entire supply of organic matter for the coming season while the soil is opened up by the freezing and thawing of late winter.

Now is the time to apply well rotted manure to your fairways and whatever material is to be used for increasing the soil humus content of your green.

Mrs. Varn Hagen Reelected

THE annual meeting of the Wives of National Greenkeepers was held during the week of Convention at Louisville, February 4-7.

During the week social things in the way of entertainment were planned for the ladies and a bus trip around the city of Louisville visiting all places of interest, which included a luncheon planned by Mrs. George Davies, Louisville, took up one entire day. About forty ladies were guests of the National association on this trip. They returned only in time to make themselves ready for the Annual Banquet, which was held at the Kentucky Hotel on Thursday evening.

Many new members were taken into the association and the meeting was well attended by active members, being so since the organization started some two years ago in Detroit.

Mrs. Jos. Varn Hagen Sr., was reelected president and Mrs. Elmer Affeldt of Glen Oaks, New York, is the new secretary, while Mrs. Herbert E. Shave remains treasurer.

A very active year is being planned by the ladies and next year when they meet in Columbus they expect to have doubled their membership.

A New Association

AT the close of the short course for greenkeepers held at the University of Wisconsin the middle of February, greenkeepers held a meeting and organized the Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association.

Paul Brockhausen, Blue Mound Country Club, Milwaukee was elected president, John Bone, of the Black Hawk Country Club, Madison, Wis., vice-president, and C. L. Bingham, Municipal Course, Beloit, Wis., secretary and treasurer. The next meeting will be held at the Blue Mound Country Club, March 10.

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