

Co-operation

By GANSON DEPEW, *Chairman*

U. S. G. A., Green Section Committee

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I APPRECIATE very much the gracious invitation extended to me as Chairman of the Green Section of the United States Golf Association, of which I am a member of its Executive Committee, to address the National Greenkeepers' Convention. I bring to you the cordial greetings and best wishes of our Association, and may I also say that it is a very great pleasure to meet you all and speak on the subject which has been assigned to me, viz: Co-operation.

Co-operation is a word which from the earliest days of civilization has meant progress, and enabled the world to attain the standards of living and achievement which is seen today in the most enlightened nations. Without co-operation we would be mere animals, fighting each other for our very existence, which in brief is the survival of the fittest. Almost all the evils with which man has been afflicted, may be traced to a lack of co-operation in which each individual has sought to promote his own interests and happiness at the expense, or at least independently of others, and which has always resulted in wretchedness and the ruin of all.

Mankind has been slowly climbing towards the goal of achievement and success. Poets have sung it, preachers have taught it, and men have fought for it. The movement of humanity under co-operation has always been onward. During the centuries which have passed since the formation of the earliest human associations for mutual interest and protection, and for the fostering of higher ideals and the satisfying of human needs, mankind has groped as if in partial darkness and without a steadying compass, but all the time getting closer together. The pleasure of the dance is largely due to the measured harmonies of motion to the meas-



GANSON DEPEW

For many years back, an address by a Depew has been an event of national interest. This one is no exception. It concerns the good of golf, as well as the welfare of the greenkeeper. Perhaps it marks a new epoch in golf course maintenance.

ured harmonies of sound.

We find happiness in associating with those to whom we are attached, and in co-operating with others in those pursuits and aims in which we have a common interest. The benefits of co-operation are seen in associations for the common welfare, when without expectation of reward, except the consciousness of benefiting others, some enterprise is undertaken for the public good. In some of the higher forms it takes the name of "patriotism" and becomes that spirit of devotion to one's country of which history furnishes so many signal examples. It was this sentiment which ages ago animated Leonidas and his immortal Spartan band; which inspired the intrepid defenders of the straits of Thermopylae in sacrificing

themselves to stay the march of Persia's invading host, and which sent "The Light Brigade" into the jaws of death. It was exemplified in our Revolutionary War when our men and women won their independence from England's trained soldiers. It was seen in the dark days of our Civil War when only the union of States saved our nation from dissolution. It was manifested in the defense of Verdun in the last Great War when the French standing like the Rock of Gibraltar said, "they shall not pass," and later when the combined efforts of the Allies ended the conflict.

Co-operation is vital in the union of capital and labor in promoting the industrial progress and welfare of a country, and it operates in the widest kind of way in those nations of the world where only the consent of the governed holds millions of people together, and sometimes to band themselves with other nations in a common cause. These are only a very few of the results of co-operation in the passing years.

I have come to you today to speak of co-operation in a matter in which we are all vitally interested, viz: the better upkeep and economical maintenance of golf courses. Its importance becomes evident when it is realized that golf in this country has more than four thousand clubs, with two million players in them and on the municipal and public links; and with nearly a billion dollars invested in courses, club houses, supplies and implements of the game. In the actual number of players golf is now our national sport.

WHY GREEN SECTION WAS FORMED

SOME years ago the United States Golf Association in the interests and development of golf for which purpose it was formed, decided to do what it could to promote the general betterment of playing conditions, which led to the establishment of its Green Section for experimental and research work. It had its inception in 1915 when we asked the United States Department of Agriculture for aid in solving turf problems which was gladly and generously given in the way of funds, ground and valuable advice. In 1921 the Green Section of the U. S. G. A. was established under a co-operative agreement with the Department of Agriculture which continued in charge for a time. In 1927, on account of the increasing work, the Green Section assumed direct responsibility in an enlargement of the activities and in finance. The Arlington gardens at Washington were established by the Department of Agriculture, and later with the funds of the U. S. G. A. the Mid-West Turf garden in Chicago came into existence, and still later the 24 co-ordinated turf and demonstration gardens were located in various parts of the country. Only a whole-hearted co-operation between the Department of Agriculture and our association made all this possible.

The U. S. G. A., and the greenkeepers of America owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Russell A. Oakley and the late Dr. C. V. Piper of the Department of Agriculture for their invaluable assistance in organizing the Green Section and for their research work in the early days; and recently to Dr. K. F. Kellerman and his staff in the continuance of the work. Can it be said that these government officials have not been animated by the highest motives and a sincere desire to help greenkeepers and clubs in promoting better turf conditions? Only

a foolish man would make this assertion, and likewise can the motives of the officials of the U. S. G. A. be impugned in working along the same lines?

For many years as Chairman of the Green Section, one of our past presidents, Wynant D. Vanderpool, has ably and unselfishly given his services, assisted by his efficient aids, Dr. John Montieth and Kenneth Welton. That the Green Section will continue to receive the whole-hearted support of the U. S. G. A. is shown in the address of Herbert H. Ramsay, who when elected president in January last, after seven years of very active and loyal service on the Executive Committee said, "There is no more important work affecting the game of golf than that being carried on by the Green Section."

GREEN SECTION TRYs TO HELP GREENKEEPERS

SINCE the Green Section was established, I fear there has been a feeling by some greenkeepers that we were doing something to usurp their privileges and were treading on forbidden ground, but nothing is further from the truth. The work on the contrary was intended to be a help to those who knew very little about the conditioning and proper maintenance of new golf courses continually springing up, and to give greenkeepers of experience valuable information obtained from experimental and research work.

There was absolutely no thought or intention of forcing anything on greenkeepers or clubs. At a large expense the Green Section simply offers its advice and experimental work to anyone who wishes to use or ignore it as seems best. It does not interfere with greenkeepers conducting their own experiments and making use of them, and it has never dictated in the slightest degree to a greenkeeper or an association of greenkeepers.

The co-operation from golf clubs and greenkeepers where our gardens are located has been most cordial, enabling the Green Section to obtain very valuable reports on the treatment and growth of the various grasses at widely separated points under different climatic conditions, which should be of great value to all greenkeepers, especially those employed in the particular districts where the gardens are. Further co-operation has been seen in the numerous well-attended gatherings of golf club officials and greenkeepers held at the various gardens where it has been possible to observe and dis-



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cuss the way different grasses, fertilizers and other treatments have acted. At many of these meetings the members of the Green Section staff have co-operated in attending to explain the work.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO HAS AIDED WORK

A CONCRETE case of cordial co-operation has been the generous provisions of laboratory and greenhouse facilities by the Botany department of the University of Chicago, with special attention paid to a study of various methods of cutting grass and the influence of these methods on its growth and permanency, which brings into question the proper height for cutting on fairways and putting greens, as well as economy of upkeep, disease resistance, and other questions. It is hoped and expected that with this co-operation we can definitely settle some of the disputed questions and correct some of the faulty practices now in use on golf courses.

Another evidence of co-operation has been the invitations from the Pennsylvania State College and the University of Wisconsin to take part in their programs of greenkeepers' short courses conducted by these institutions. Still further co-operation assisted by funds of the Green Section is given in the experimental turf work at the Pennsylvania State College and at the New Jersey Agricultural Experimental Station at New Brunswick. It was the active co-operation of the New Jersey Greenkeepers' Association which induced the Legislature to appropriate \$5000.00 annually for this work. Other states and universities have taken up the problems of turf culture.

The co-operation between the Green Section and member clubs of the U. S. G. A. in the way of correspondence and service is one of our greatest activities. Not only are soil and seed samples examined and reports rendered, but the Green Section staff visits on request a large number of golf courses to give advice to clubs and greenkeepers on the turf problems submitted. During the past year many clubs in as many as twenty-four states were visited which would have been considerably increased had the personnel of the staff been larger.

In the publication of the Green Section Bulletin the spirit of co-operation is again in evidence. Unfortunately, on account of illness in the editorial staff and important work in other fields, the Bulle-

tin has been somewhat delayed in its issuance, but it is expected that in the future it will be promptly printed and circulated.

It is interesting to know that in February, 1929, a Board of Greenkeeping Research was established for the scientific investigation of greenkeeping problems by a Joint Advisory committee of the Golf Unions of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Its Director, R. B. Dawson, acknowledging my congratulations in the issue of their most attractive Journal said, "Like yourselves we are finding experimental work of increasing value not only in advising clubs as to treatments, but in adding to the general knowledge of turf culture." Thus is now seen in the old country, further co-operation in the work and problems in which we are all interested.

N. A. G. A. PRAISED FOR ITS GOOD WORK

IN further co-operation are the activities of your splendid Association of Greenkeepers primarily organized, as is the Green Section, for the betterment of turf conditions. You are very fortunate in still having at your head as President, the founder of your Association, a man of vision and experience, who has given his time and effort to the interests of greenkeeping, a man commanding the respect and affection of every one who knows him—John Morley.

In still further co-operation is the publication of your interesting magazine, *THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER*, with its instructive articles on turf control, and ably edited by Robert E. Power. To them and others in your organization, as well as to state and local associations throughout the country, the greenkeepers and clubs are indebted for valuable advice and suggestion in the betterment of golf courses.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the committees in charge of the splendid Golf Shows you have at your conventions, which have added much to their interest and pleasure, and for which in recent years your hard-working chairman is responsible, Fred A. Burkhardt.

The comprehensive work of the Green Section can perhaps be better understood in my telling you that our Association now expends annually nearly \$42,000.00, which is \$9000.00 more than is received in dues from member clubs. It realizes that

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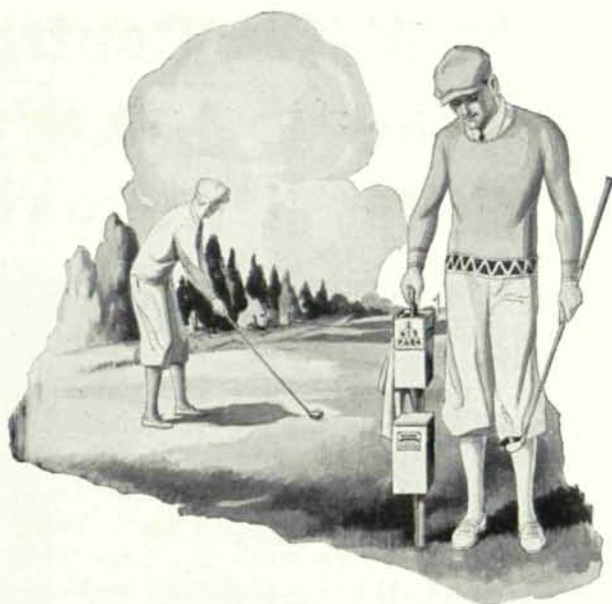


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golf is a game of pleasure, and a club to be successful and self-supporting must have an adequate membership which cannot be easily had if links are not kept in first-class condition.

An increase in the number of clubs means, of course, more employment for greenkeepers. If he values his job, he should be glad for self-interest alone, to receive the reports of the Green Section, and if in availing himself of its experiments and research he can give his club a finer golf course and save money in its maintenance, he can command a higher salary. Greenkeeping today is a profession requiring technical and scientific knowledge.

The work of the Green Section is still in its infancy. It does not claim immunity from error or that its advice is infallible, but it does feel that progress has been made and valuable information obtained, which has greatly helped the golf clubs in better links with reduced expense of maintenance. There is still, as you all know, much to be learned, especially in leaf spot disease, turf insect control, and fairway improvement, and as we learn from continued experiments and research, the great waste of money now going on will be materially lessened in the knowledge of the best methods to follow.

INSECTS GREATEST SOURCE OF TROUBLE

MAY I briefly state some of our future problems. Insects continue to be the greatest source of trouble on many golf courses, such as the mole cricket in the South, ants, grubs, cutworms, army worms, grasswebe worms and many others, and until adequate information is obtained in research and experimental work, a large sum of money is spent each year without results.

Most of our experimental work has been in the growth and treatment of putting greens, but the condition of fairways is just as important and few clubs have perfect ones. This brings to the front problems which have in most cases been unsolved, such as the best methods of preparing, fertilizing and seeding various soils in different degrees of climate, time of application of the fertilizers and their rotation, best use of water, particularly in view of the sprinkling systems which many clubs are establishing, best height to cut, control of weeds, particularly clover which the too great use

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of water promotes, the renovation of poor, weedy turf, the perpetuation of good Bermuda turf, the treatment of brown patch, and that which is best suited for recovery from the deplorable conditions brought about by the prolonged drought last year.

SYSTEMATIC STUDY IS NECESSARY

A SYSTEMATIC study and experimentation is necessary to obtain information which will enable us to solve and successfully meet these problems. In all of them the greenkeepers working with us can be of the greatest assistance and in our combined efforts success will be attained. We not only seek your help and experience, but we are glad to make use of it in our own field of activity. Golf cannot get along without greenkeepers, and few realize the time and effort you put in from early morning to late at night to create better turf conditions. But there is this difference between the Green Section and yourselves.

Clubs have not the necessary funds to enable greenkeepers to conduct intelligent and scientific experiments and research on the same large scale as does the Green Section, and are unable to give the results the same wide publicity. We appreciate the value of your work and hope you in turn appreciate ours, and that you feel in fairness and good will that the sole desire of the Green Section and Department of Agriculture is to help you as best they can.

Only in a hearty and cordial co-operation among us all can the best results be obtained. We are all interested in producing the finest fairways and putting greens possible. If this is accomplished, the existence and cost of the Green Section will be justified, as will your Association of Greenkeepers and others, and you will have a just pride in the golf links of which you have charge. An honest difference of opinion will, of course, prevail at times as to the best methods to pursue, but in any event let us unselfishly work together without jealousy or friction, in the spirit of the utmost harmony, to make golf which we all love, the most enjoyable of games, with better conditions of turf at a minimum expense as our ultimate goal. In brief, let the fullest co-operation be our watchword for the future.

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