

Minnesota Gossip

By H. E. STODOLA, *Secretary*



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THE December meeting of the Minnesota Greenkeepers was held at Glenwood Golf Course, Minneapolis. Carl Erickson is the greenkeeper and was our genial host.

There were fifteen members present. The main subject of discussion was the wage question. The new budgets are being prepared for next year and cuts are being made right and left. During the last three years the budgets have been reduced and wages have been going down. Now they have reached the bottom and any further reduction will hurt and hurt plenty.

TWIN CITY WAGES REACH BOTTOM

THE Twin City wage for golf course labor ranges from thirty-five cents to forty-five cents an hour, with a working day of seven and a half hours to nine hours. These men work from five to seven months a year and also lose time during rainy weather.

Golf course labor averages about three dollars and twenty cents a day in this territory, at the most eighty-five dollars a month, or six hundred and eighty dollars a year. That certainly should be a minimum for skilled labor like golf course help.

GREENSMAN IS SKILLED WORKMAN

WORK on a golf course is of a high type. Green-cutting is more than pushing a mower. A good green-cutter can tell if his greens are properly watered. He can detect disease or signs of disease as soon as he appears on his greens in the morning. He knows that he has to cut his grass at different angles each day to avoid wearing it away in one place. He knows how to adjust a delicate mower and how to take care of it.

He is dealing with grass which is a living thing and can easily vary from day to day. He can detect weeds and takes them out whenever he sees them. He knows each green with its failings and good points, and can be a great help to the greenkeeper who does not have time to study each green separately.

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CUTTING FAIRWAYS IS FINE WORK

CUTTING fairways is a fine piece of work. The man must keep his tractor and mowers in tip-top condition to start with. He has to cut his fairways quickly and efficiently and still not interfere with the watering system. He has to be alert to do his work well and yet avoid the players.

You can go down the list and find that all men on a well-managed golf course are very skilled. On top of being efficient they must be neat and very courteous and understand the game and the players' temperament. Good men never interfere with play or the players and to be good these men must be experienced and paid a living wage.

Therefore, we, the Minnesota Association, feel that the minimum wage scale on a golf course should be forty cents an hour and the budget will still balance and please all concerned.

MINNESOTA BACKS MACGREGOR

THIS Association is back of our new President and will give all the support they can for the coming Convention. Everyone present at the meeting pledged their support and presence at the Golf Show.

At our next monthly meeting we plan to have an agronomist give us a talk on soils and soil conditions. It is necessary that we put as much scientific study and practical discussion in our meetings as possible.

The next meeting will be held in the Log Room, Superior Golf Club, Minneapolis, Monday, January 9, 1933. Every member is urged to attend because it is the last meeting before the Convention.

Pacific Coast Gossip

By ARTHUR LANGTON

SEVERAL months ago the water rates in Los Angeles for golf courses were given a substantial boost, thus adding many thousands of dollars to the water bills of the clubs in the metropolitan area.

Recently it was decided to hold the Los Angeles Open Golf tournament this season only if the course of the Wilshire Country club could be obtained for the event; this because the Wilshire site was the only layout where such a tourney could be staged with the possibility of making any money.

Officials of this club refused to make their course available unless the heavy water rates were lowered. Long and bitter were the debates but finally the Junior Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the tournament, prevailed upon water officials to capitulate.

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As a result nearly everybody is satisfied. Bob Greenfield at Wilshire and all other greenkeepers using Los Angeles water receive the benefit of lower irrigation rates; the Chamber of Commerce gets its annual tournament; and the crack golfers of the country get a chance at prizes, which though reduced in value from other years, are nevertheless quite substantial.

WILSHIRE COURSE IS IDEAL

THE Wilshire course is almost an ideal site for the tournament. It is centrally located with accommodations for handling large crowds; is an excellent test of