

# Minnesota Gossip

By H. E. STODOLA, *Secretary*



H. E. STODOLA  
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Association of Golf  
Course Superintendents.*

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

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golf, and greens, fairways, tees, and hazards are groomed to perfection. Finally, the layout is barricaded with a high fence to frustrate those who would see without paying.

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### NEW FUNGUS AT LOS ANGELES

**E**ARL RANDLEMAN at the Los Angeles Western Avenue golf course reports something else to worry about in the shape of a new fungus which is devastating his greens. First indication of the scourge came when his grass began to lose color near the roots and then die.

An examination of the turf revealed streaks of fungus growth almost like rust. A sample sent to a local university brought forth the information that this was a fungus which existed in some of the heavy soils of Southern California and which thrived on proteins.

No method of treatment was known except to re turf the infected areas. This would involve considerable expense inasmuch as Randleman on one green alone has a diseased area of five hundred square feet. He is continuing a thorough investigation of the matter and would appreciate any information that might be obtained in regard to such a fungus. Meanwhile other Southern California greenkeepers are exercising constant surveillance for similar discolorations on their own greens.

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It is reported that greenkeepers of Northern California are meeting at night instead of in the daytime as in the past. It is hoped by this method to increase attendance because many course superintendents, short-handed as they are, feel that they must stay on the job constantly.

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**N**ORTHERN and eastern states are getting the laugh on California. Golf on many courses in the Golden State has been interrupted by snowstorms, previously unheard of in these localities. Even in Imperial Valley which is below sea level down near the Mexican border there has been a flurry of snow. But whether snow, hail, sleet, or rain it is all moisture to the California greenkeeper and he is thankful for it.

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Art Sutherland has been named as greenkeeper of the

new public golf course being built by the Montana Land company in Long Beach. Work on this magnificent new layout is being rapidly promoted. The course will be opened early in the new year.

**F.** GROOS WARNS AGAINST SOGGY "COLLAR"  
C. GROOS of the Long Beach Country Club warns against the soggy "collar" prevalent in front of many greens. This collar, caused by superfluous water flowing from the green towards the fairway, is a stroke-maker and a constant source of dissatisfaction among the players. The condition may be alleviated, according to Groos by laying a tile drain pipe about six inches below the surface of the collar so the extra water may be led off in the most convenient direction.

## Michigan Greenkeepers' Meet at Lansing

By HERBERT E. SHAVE, *Greenkeeper*  
*Oakland Hills Country Club, Birmingham, Mich.*

**T**HE Michigan Greenkeepers met at the Michigan Agricultural College, Dec. 5 and 6, to discuss a few of the numerous problems which their positions hold at present.

Mr. Mathews, president of the Western Greenkeepers' Association, asked why and how certain places on a well-drained green including high and low places, could lose their color. Many opinions were expressed by the other members.

Next in line for discussion was the top-dressing of greens, and the methods and time required for this. This brought out a lot of hot arguments, but all were settled before any serious results incurred.

### SHAVE TALKS ABOUT FUNGO

**H**ERB SHAVE was asked to relate some of his experiences of the use of "Fungo" on "dollar brown patch." His efforts had been successful and he said that he means to keep a supply on hand at all times, just in case of an emergency.

The uses of other fungicides, such as lime, corrosive-sublimite, calomel, calo clor, and others were discussed. All were pronounced as being effective for the above case.

Professors Millar and Tyson, of the College, seemed to be very much interested in the talks.

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### LECTURES WERE EXCELLENT

**T**UESDAY, Professor Hallegan gave a lecture on "Landscaping Club-house Grounds and Golf Courses," discussing the types of trees and shrubs best adapted for this work. Questions and answers followed.

Professor Hudson's lecture on "Sod Web Worms," "June Beetle Grub," "Ants," and "Tree Caterpillars," was excellent. This is what the boys were waiting for and they absorbed it like the grubs absorb poison.

A trip was made to the experimental grass plots. Professor Tyson then explained the soil and grass seeds used,