

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A letter, relative to the proposed establishment of Experimental Horticultural Gardens at Lisle, Illinois, was recently mailed to all those of the Bull Sheet mailing list. This project is to be under the direction of the Department of Horticulture of the University of Illinois, and as stated in the letter, an appropriation has already been made for the construction of certain buildings and greenhouses. Another and larger appropriation is included in the biennial appropriation of the University of Illinois, to cover the balance of the building program, and is to be acted on at this session of the State Legislature. Now is the time for all of us to get behind this project and do all in our power to show the Legislature and the University that this is what we want and have been trying for years to have established in our State. The establishment of turf gardens in our immediate district would be of utmost value and importance to all of us, not only for our golf course, but for all turf areas as well. Of course we know that turf will be only a part of the experimental work carried on, but that makes it all the more important that we stress the importance of turf culture in relation to other projects to be handled. I feel that the appropriation will be passed, but an enthusiastic effort on our part will make the proper impression to further our aims in additional turf research.

The establishment of experimental turf plots at Lisle will in no manner affect the benefits derived from the work being done by the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation at Purdue University, of which many of your clubs are members, but will be an important additional source of information. We can use them both, and more, to aid us to further knowledge in our profession and in the perfection of turf for which we are all striving. In Dr. William H. Daniel of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation we have a sincere and able friend who will do all in his power to help us with our problems. Those of you who attended the recent conference at Purdue were no doubt impressed as much as I with the excellence of the program submitted to us by the Foundation. Naturally the Foundation cannot exist without funds and I would urge at this time, that if your club is not already a member of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, that you bring to the attention of the Club officials the importance of membership in such an organization.

William H. Stupple—President.

## EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES SURVEY

Most equipment needed for golf course operation is still available, but getting scarcer. Manufacturers have been cut back on materials such as steel, aluminum, brass, etc. After using up inventory stocks, production of mowers and other turf equipment will be drastically reduced. Barring all out war, some civilian production will continue, but because of the non-essential classification generally assigned to recreational enterprises you may expect the worst.

All basic chemicals used in the manufacture of fertilizers are in short supply. The pressure from agriculture for fertilizer is terrific. The situation will be tight at least until after spring planting. Straight Sulphate of Ammonia, Superphosphate and Potash are out of the picture for the present.

Fungicides, insecticides and weed killers are available now. Some items containing mercury are scarce and high in price.

Grass seed continues high in price. Farmers can devote land to higher paying crops than grass seed. Labor which is a big factor in seed production is scarce, and has doubled or even trebled costs. Do not expect pre-war seed prices under present conditions.

It would seem wise to plan ahead on your needs and give your supplier time to make deliveries. Don't hoard, just be practical by being ahead of immediate requirements.

C. O. Borgmier.

## SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT AND MEETING

Pete Stewart and the Butterfield Country Club, Hinsdale, Illinois will be host to the first outdoor meeting of 1951 of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents on Tuesday, May 15th. The reason for the date as such is that it is hoped that the weather by that time will be a little warmer than we can expect around the first part of May, which would normally be the date of our regular meeting. Pete says that the Manager of Butterfield can better accommodate us on a Tuesday, hence Tuesday, May 15th. You will note that this is announced as a spring golf tournament and Frank Dinelli, our Golf Committee Chairman, is bringing a great deal of pressure to bear on the powers that be of the organization for more dough for golf prizes at our meetings, and, knowing Frank as you do, you know that he usually gets what he goes after.

This meeting will afford you the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and bat the little old pill around again. Better get in a little practice beforehand, since reports indicate that some of the boys took their clubs along to Florida this winter and are rarin' to go. Pete says the refreshments on the course will be "on the house".

Dinner will be served followed by a report by Bill Daniel of conditions as he finds them in a tour of Chicagoland Golf Courses. Bill will also be available to answer questions relative to the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation.

## APRIL MEETING SUMMARY

Our April meeting was held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago on April 2. After the usual business of the meeting there was a panel discussion held on Superintendents salaries and greens labor wages. Those on the panel were Al Johnson, Chairman of the Educational committee, Bob Williams, Ray Gerber, Frank Dinelli, and Bert Rost. Bob Williams explained the various graph charts he had prepared on labor wages. He pointed out that the cost of labor in the last thirty years had risen from thirty-five cents per hour for regular help to the average of from \$1.25 to \$1.30 at the present time for the same help. He explained that labor wages had risen about 400% over the years in comparison with the Superintendents of from 200% to 300% in the same period. Frank Dinelli and Ray Gerber gave the cost of labor per hour in their sections of the district and which was about the same as Williams report. There are some differences in the wage level according to the type of man and the work he does. The consensus of opinion was that the average wage was around \$1.25 per hour. Another interesting point that was brought out in the discussion was that the Superintendents salaries usually run around 14% to 20% of the Grounds budget.

The members in attendance at the meeting were in favor of having a survey card made up and sent out to members of the Association. An over all report would be made to those members cooperating in the survey. There was quite a discussion on the number of things that would have to go into the survey in order to receive a good report that would benefit both private and public courses. It was brought out at the meeting that the clubs vary considerably in their methods of setting up budgets, so a number of things must be taken into consideration so that an accurate report can be made. Sample survey cards were made up during the discussion but no report was made on them at that time. It is planned to have a follow up on this discussion at a later meeting after a further survey has been made.

Al. Johnson, Chairman Educational Comm.

## ROSEMAN DEMONSTRATION

The Roseman Tractor Equipment Company is planning a tractor and equipment demonstration at Chesterfield Country Club, Glnview, Illinois on Monday, May 7th, 1951.