' HAVE WE PROGRESSED ? ?

The following article is a combination of two letters written by a former member of the Midwest Association, Norman Johnson. Although these letters were originally written in 1946, the material presented and the message implied is as current and timely today as it was fourteen years ago. Have we progressed? It is generally understood that travel broadens the mind to understand better the problems and conditions that are allied with the individual's personal interests. Meetings with other Superintendents makes our work so much more interesting. The exchanging of ideas and practical experiences among each other tends to cement a closer relationship and understanding of our turf problems and Association affairs. Perhaps these hot-stove remarks may answer part of that question we hear quite frequently from prospective members who usually inquire before making formal application: "Just what has the Association to offer us in return for our due card?" It's a fair question. No doubt this question has been discussed by various district groups over many a cup o'hot java. The most apropos and intelligent answer that comes to my attention is that no one individual or group should expect to receive more in return for what he or they have actually contributed for the good of the Association. One's monetary effort cannot be considered as the means of acquiring the real benefits but in reality should be measured by the efforts one exerts in attending meetings, turf conferences and lending sincere cooperation when-







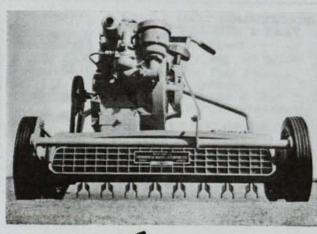
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ever possible in Association activities. The diligent excercise of the privileges extended to each member by the Association will give us all a much better opportunity to become familiar with the purpose of our Association and eliminate some of the prevailing isolationist complex among members. Everyone has to pull on the oars with equal effort, particularly when the going gets a little rough. If some of us start resting on our oars, it's going to put a burden on the others, and we are not going to push ahead very far in that manner.

Our Association needs the loyal support of every member if we expect to go forward. The purpose of making our Superintendents organization worthwhile to each of us is a very important matter to think over. Recognition of our ability in all phases of turf management as individuals, and, as a group, recognition of an organization that represents as one of its policies, e. i. a very high standard of maintenance practices, should certainly be known by everyone interested in turf throughout our nation. This matter of recognition is one of our pertinent problems of today. The question has been raised; Just what are we going to do about it? I sincerely believe that all of us, as Superintendents, should become more familiar with our GCSAA functions and its immediate purpose of obtaining a national recognition that is rightfully ours. We are now at the threshold of something worthwhile, so let's drop that back-yard policy and look ahead towards the future welfare of our profession. This work that you and I are associated with is really an interesting vocation. Why not give it an opportunity through our own individual efforts by impressing on the minds of those persons who are religiously interested in the advancement of turf management of the basic and fundamental purpose of our Association. We should take advantage of what the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCS AA) has to offer us today by having a strong national representation among the members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents.







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