Green Section Confab Features Research

By B. R. LEACH

A NNUAL meetings of the United States Golf Association Green Section were held on January 4th and 5th at the Commodore Hotel in New York City. The audience present at the meetings was relatively small as compared with former years probably due in no small part to the lack of publicity given the event.

The program was opened at 10 a. m. on Friday morning by Chairman Findlay S. Douglas, who extended a hearty and metropolitan welcome. Then followed the annual report of the chairman of the United States Golf Association Green section research committee, H. L. Westover. He disclosed that there were 1,056 members of the green section; \$28,000 was spent by the green section and that 3,120 copies of the bulletin were published monthly. Research work during the past year had consisted in testing various strains of grasses, studies of disease control and the determination of the best methods of applying fertilizers and mercury compounds.

Mr. Westover announced the inception of new experimental turf gardens at Palo Alto, Calif, and Chicago, Ill. and that demonstration turf plats at 15 golf clubs in various parts of the country would be established. Future research work to be conducted by the green section will stress the fundamentals such as drainage, soil structure, etc.

John Morley was next on the program with a paper entitled "Greenkeeping Yesterday and Today." Mr. Morley is president of the National Association of greenkeepers and may be considered one of the deans of greenkeepers in this country. He described how the greenkeepers of 15 years ago were handicapped by lack of information and inadequate mowing machinery. He brought out the point that it requires from three to five years to train a man for greenkeeping, that many golf course ills are due to unqualified golf course architects and contractors and that these latter gentlemen should be working with the greenkeeper while the course is under construction.

The most interesting thing as regards

Mr. Moriey is his obvious sincerity of purpose, a rare commodity amidst the ankledeep bushwhacking and baloney of the turf-maintenance game.

The next paper was of a general nature, by R. F. Arnott, entitled "Old and New Problems as Viewed by a Green-Committee Chairman." He stressed the fact that green-chairmen should be a go-between, between greenkeeper and club rather than delve deeply into turf culture; that should be confidant of greenkeeper but not dominate.

Acid-Soil System Questioned

"A Professional's View of Turf Problems," by John Mackie was next on the program. Mr. Mackie is a very able speaker. The important point of his paper dealt with the fact that there is active rebellion in many quarters as regards the present acid-soil system of turf maintenace, the rebellion having been brought to a head by the past season's woeful experience with turf disease. He warned the rebels to be careful and not change their methods too radically.

"Standardized Accounting in the Detroit District," by J. W. Bryant, Jr., described how the Detroit Green Section had studied the problems of cost analysis, labor costs, etc., and the conclusions arrived at. This address came in for considerable comment by members of the audience. Group studies of golf course maintenance costs periodically come to the fore but it is an open question as to just what useful purpose they serve. Often they are used as a club to swing over the head of some conscientious greenkeeper.

The afternoon session opened with a paper by John Monteith, Jr., entitled, "The Green Section Experimental Work" in which he emphasized the importance and value of the new experimental turf gardens now established or about to be established in various sections of the country.

Next on the program was a paper by C. A. Tregillus entitled, "The New Experimental Turf Garden at Chicago." Mr. Tregillus is in charge of this turf garden located on the Lasker estate and judging from his remarks it is to be an elaborate affair, combining both the research and demonstration phases.

"The New Green Section Demonstration Plots as an Aid to the Greenkeeper," by F. H. Wilson, described the plots at Charles River (Mass.) Country club, and intimated that some of the greenkeepers could come and look at them and learn something about good turf.

Green section extension work was outlined by Kenneth Welton who stated extension service takes technical dope and works it up into shape for practical use. This extension work, he said, bridges the gap between the scientists and the man in the front line trenches. The green section receives and answers 500 letters a month and during 1928, 187 visits were paid to golf courses from Maine to California by members of green section staff for purpose of assisting in problems.

The next paper, by Monteith, entitled "Some Recent Work at the Arlington Turf Gardens," was the star act of the entire two days show. Brother Monteith certainly upset all the traditional apple carts and then walked all over the apples. Reporting the results of two years' work on brown patch control he stated the disease was held in check by the use of plain, ordinary, honest - to - god lime. This, after all these years in which no one dared to even breathe the word lime, after all these years consumed in the intense advocacy of acid soil for fine turf. It is no secret that Monteith called the attention of the chairman of the research staff to these lime results as far back as 1924 and 1925.

Next on the program was a paper entitled, "New Phases of Turf Disease Work,", by A. S. Dahl in which he described certain diseases of turf other than brown patch and detailed the work which was being done toward working out measures for their control.

An interesting paper on the Saturday morning program was entitled, "Canadian Turf Work, by Dr. G. P. McRostie. He) described the Canadian government system of grading and marketing under seal.

The concluding paper on the program was a masterly address by Dr. J. G. Lipman, head of the New Jersey Experiment station at New Brunswick, entitled, "Soils in Relation to Golf Turf," in which he stressed the importance of research.

DETROIT DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION

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This is the form used by Detroit Green Section in making cost survey