

# Team-work and Technicalities

Feature topics of  
greenkeepers' meet

By HERB GRAFFIS

**I**N the election of John Morley of the Youngstown (O.) Country club as president of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America, for his third term, the organization's third annual meeting thoughtfully resisted the lure of the deep tangled rough of association politics and committed itself to playing in the fairway toward the long green of higher general standard of course maintenance and a bigger reward for better greenkeepers.

Morley, a veteran who enjoys the confidence of greenkeepers, club officials and U. S. G. A. Green Section powers, had two pretty sharply defined fields for the work of his administration again laid out before him at the Buffalo convention. During the next year it was made plainly evident that there must be greater unity within the ranks of the greenkeepers themselves and consequently that certain of the eastern greenkeepers' organizations must be made factors of the National body if it is going to live up to its name. The complaint on the part of the easterners is that the National association now does not give them equitable voting representation. However, that is a matter that ought to be ironed out with some give and take on both sides.

It will have to be handled before effective advance is made in securing the close co-operation of green-chairmen and the Green Section necessary for the success of the greenkeepers' ambition of bettering courses and their own status.

This subject of closer co-operation and mutual understanding with the club and Green Section officials, together with the presentation of greenkeeping training policies and methods, made by Prof. L. S. Dickinson, constituted the high spots of general interest on the program. There was an unusually good and well balanced program of technical papers at the convention, and the program committee de-

seives warm praise for its judgment and efforts in arranging the line-up.

## Vote Next Meet to Louisville

According to the vote taken at the convention the next annual convention and show of the N. A. G. A. will be held at Louisville. The decision was made after George Davies of Louisville had single-handedly waged a fight for the event. The easterners believed they had the 1930 meeting "in the bag," but bucked up against the fact that the middle section of the country polled more votes. The central states contingent mourned that they couldn't afford to come to New York and the corps from the Atlantic seaboard lamented that many of their number would keenly feel the rap of expenses to Louisville. So there, dear friends, you have a specific example of organization problems confronting the fellows who are handling, individually, realty and construction investments worth hundreds of thousands and trying to get by—the majority of them—on less than the wages of a union plasterer. No matter what the sectional make-up of their organization is, they are going to "see America First" as conventioners with an assortment of hungry mugs craving action in the old home-stead.

The answer seems to be that suggested by a Jersey green-chairman, J. H. Greenbaum, at the meeting; enlist the co-operation of the employing clubs and acquaint the employers with the purpose, spirit and definite benefit of the meeting to the degree that the clubs will consider the expenses of the greenkeeper to the convention a valid and valuable item in the annual greenkeeping costs. During the course of the Jerseyman's extemporaneous remarks, a survey of the greenkeepers present was made, and it was found that of approximately 300 greenkeepers registered at the convention about

30 had their expenses paid by their clubs. Not a bad beginning, but it needs a lot of boosting.

### Moguls Give the Boys a Hand

What might be labeled "a few well chosen remarks," made by Ganson Depew of Buffalo, a notable in golf club officialdom, also were interpreted by the greenkeepers as evidence that the powers that be in golf club government look with favor upon the ambition of the greenkeepers to be dealt a hand in a comprehensive plan of research and maintenance method development. Mr. Depew, who is president of the Buffalo District Golf association, welcomed the convention, and reminded the boys that because the U. S. G. A. stood unreservedly for the good of the game, the purposes of the two organizations were teamed by the tie that binds. Mayor Schwab of Buffalo also greeted the convention with a brief and felicitous address.

The technical phases of the program will be dealt with in due course, but as matters of general interest to the golf field the program feature spots were when both barrels were fired into the assembled multitude by J. H. Greenbaum, green chairman of the Jumping Brook Country Club of Asbury Park, N. J., and B. R. Leach, formerly of the U. S. G. A. Greens Section and now one of the turf experts of the country on a fancy legitimate per diem fee. Although not members of the association their remarks undoubtedly had more bearing upon the destinies of the greenkeepers' organization than any statements previously made before national or sectional assemblies.

### Greenkeeping Needs Advertising

Both of these gentlemen mildly rebuked the greenkeepers for hiding their lights under the proverbial bushels. Greenbaum, who answered the roll call as one of the very few green-chairmen who attended the meeting with his greenkeeper, presented to the turf nurses the valuable bet they overlooked in not giving the green-chairmen and the clubs an idea of the value of the meetings. This was the same theme

Leach loud-pedaled in speaking on the potentialities of the college boys in greenkeeping. The Riverton expert said that the college-trained lads, being unable to keep silent, introduced an element of self-advertising that might be a valuable influence.

Naming the zero hour in greenkeeping as a business as the date of the organization of the U. S. G. A. Green Section, Mr. Leach lamented neglect of the greenkeepers in the working line-up of the Section, for this, he maintained, hurt the individual dignity of the greenkeepers who nursed high aspirations of achievement for the good of the game as well as for their professional standing. The original plan of organization, he stated, formed an army of dilettante greenkeepers. Such a plan might have been pardoned by the general conception of the condition prevailing at that time, but had been outgrown by the development of the greenkeepers' position in the world of golf. He exhorted the old slogan as indicative of the earlier attitude of the Green Section, "Come to the meeting and bring your greenkeeper—if you wish."

### "Yes-Sir Man's" Day Past

As a result of these conditions, Leach said the greenkeeper became submerged unless he was with a club that let the greenkeeper assume proper responsibility for his business. The result was that the greenkeeper became too much of a "yes, sir," man and afraid to take the initiative necessary to best course maintenance. A business with that spirit doesn't advance, Leach pointed out. He referred to Prof. Dickinson's address in which the varied and vital details of a good greenkeeper's qualifications were outlined, by delicately suggesting that the green-chairman's limited training and tenure of office did not identify him as the one almighty potentate over the situation—not that he claimed this position for the greenkeeper, but rather a wise balance.

Leach also said that ruling out participation of the manufacturers in the golf field by the Green Section was no longer neces-

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sary. He cited the assistance given colleges and other research organizations by manufacturers who were tremendously interested in the definite findings of unbiased authorities. Business now is selfishly interested and selfishly honest, according to his observation, to the extent that suspicions of bias in the research work partially financed by manufacturers and conducted by impartial authorities, had been discarded in other lines of endeavor. He hazarded the guess that greenkeeping practice would have been advanced considerably beyond its present status had the commercial factors interested been allowed to help in the financing of the Green Section's work.

### More Golf Money Needed

Golf courses haven't given the Green Section adequate financial support, claimed Leach. In making his estimate of the costs of Green Section work he related something about the seven years he and his associates spent on the grub control research that eventually brought lead arsenate into turf arena as the "white hope" in the bug battle of the century.

Although lobby babble had the Leach talk on the trend in the greenkeeping profession forecast as a "rootin' tootin'," revolutionary event it was notably temperate and a simple, apparently sound, view of the situation through the eyes of a man who knows his greens and the spirit of the changed times. The one thrill of potential fireworks came as a result of his comment on what he termed the "theory and practice of Service Bureau buying," during which he cited an instance of practical utility playing second fiddle to first cost as the control factor in a Service Bureau purchase. Miss Evelyn Nickerson of the Massachusetts Service Bureau tangled with him on this point. The debate was brief and left no dead or wounded on either side.

### New Greens While You Wait

With Louis Evans presiding the first day's session got away to a flying start. Joe Valentine prefaced his talk on re-sodding a putting green with the comment that although the increased use of machinery was supposed to be making the greenkeeper's job easier, the new complications and the more exacting and extensive demands on the turf boss were making his spot tougher every day.

In outlining his method of re-sodding so that his re-surfaced greens were ready for play a day after the work was completed, Joe advised cutting the sods about 10 inches by 12 inches, which he said was about as big as they could be handled with safety. He said to spread the turf instead of piling it, as rain on a sod pile would ruin the lower layers. The sod should be spread where there is no traffic. The soil upon which the sod is to be re-laid should be raked three times so every stone would be removed and the soil made very fine. A 400-pound roller, he stated, was just right for finishing. The green then should be top-dressed. Excellent pictures of work done by Valentine in re-sodding were passed around.

In contrasting the old and the new in Canadian greenkeeping methods, W. J. Sansom of the Toronto Golf club, mentioned the error of generalization that was so frequent in the old days. They soon found out that British methods were unsatisfactory under Canadian conditions. There was not enough attention given to top-dressing in the earlier days. Then the heavy roller was in vogue and much harm was done by its use, continued the Toronto man. He referred to the present fertilizing and top-dressing practice. He said at his establishment he found sharp sand in top-dressing was excellent especially as protection over winter. Winter-kill he designated as a major misery in Canada, and told of the Dominion's greenkeepers' varying success in prevention. His best results were obtained from top-dressing with screened compost put on in December.

He wound up with an outline of the work of the Canadian Greenkeepers' organization, which was organized in October, 1924. Monthly meetings are held. During the summer these meetings are conducted at the courses of various members.

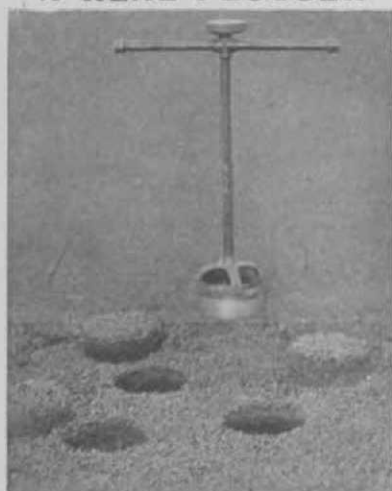
O. J. Noer in his address on soils touched upon many points that have been covered in his articles in GOLFDOM. Due to the importance of his subject a digest of his talk will appear in an early issue of GOLFDOM. Hiram Godwin read the interesting address on "Animal vs. Chemical Fertilizers" which was prepared by Victor George, president of the Indiana Association of Greenkeepers, in collaboration with professors A. T. Wiancke and S. D. Conner of Purdue university.

(Continued on Page 96)

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## High Spots of Greenkeepers' Sessions

(Continued from Page 30)

W. J. Sansom was the pilot of the second day's session and introduced James A. Smith of London, O., as the curtain raiser. Mr. Smith, an authority on humus, went deeply into the value of humus as a vital medium for conditioning golf courses. He counseled his hearers to buy humus for its physical action rather than for its fertilizing value. He brought out the necessity of complete treatment when he reminded the greenkeepers that they took worn-out farms and raised on them the most intensive crop in the world. He advised the making of humus without delay, where it was not available and cited the slow processes of nature that had to be taken into consideration in obtaining humus. He summarized briefly soil conditions calling for humus application and advocated standardized top-dressing practice.

B. R. Leach's address on grub control was mainly what he has written in GOLF-DOM on the subject. He showed that the treatment depends on whether the grubs were a chronic or occasional problem. In the event that grub damage is sporadic an application of three pounds of lead arsenate per 1,000 sq. ft. will clean up the trouble in approximately 10 days. An incessant problem calls for a half pound every top-dressing or a pound every other top-dressing. For fairways 125 lbs. to 250 lbs. per acre gives grub control for two, and sometimes, three years. On shaded greens that depend on poa annua, the lead arsenate treatment was not advocated, and

rarely is it necessary, Leach said, because the grub prefers a place in the sun. If there is need of grub control a half pound of lead arsenate per 1,000 square feet per month in top-dressing is sufficient. This dosage begun in the spring, when fine grasses are making their greatest growth promotes the replacement of poa annua. He touched but briefly on the weed control phases of lead arsenate use. He did impress that lead arsenate gradually became inert in the soil, consequently involving no risk of soil.

In concluding Leach advised that when a green upon which lead arsenate is used goes bad, it is wise to reserve judgment and not immediately condemn the arsenate. Too many factors could be responsible for the condition to permit of hasty judgment.

### Get Greenkeeper Early

R. H. Montgomery of Hawthorne Valley (Detroit district), who helped rock golf's cradle in the United States, and now the presiding genius of the largest daily fee establishment in the world, barely touched on the topic assigned to him, "Can Golf Maintenance Be Standardized?" saying it was much too debatable to permit any valid conclusions. He regarded standardization of costs of different clubs on a basis of comparable figures out of the question, but stated that in the case of Hawthorne's own four courses, the costs of maintenance had been so standardized that they knew where they stood on present and prospective work. He pointed out that when a club got its greenkeeper during the construction stages of the enterprise many building errors eventually responsible for higher maintenance costs were avoided.

He expressed the belief that green-chairmen allowing greenkeepers more freedom in their work were accountable for the improvement in greenkeeping results. A lively discussion on the general manager idea followed the Montgomery address, some of the boys claiming that lack of understanding on the part of general managers had, in certain instances, proved detrimental to proper maintenance as well as disrupting to the morale of the greenkeeping staff.

Montgomery made an unusual statement when he said that he was against the replacement of divots on his courses, the reason being that all Hawthorne's fairways are bent.



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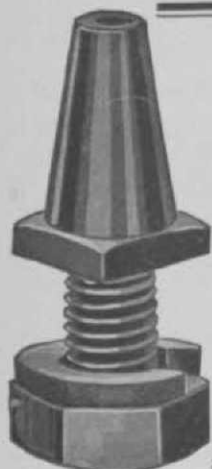
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The next program feature, the address of Prof. A. H. Tomlinson on "Planting Around the Clubhouse," appears on other pages of March GOLFDOM.

John MacGregor of Chicago acted as master of ceremonies for the last session. In the place of J. E. Cannaday, who was to speak on fungus diseases from a florist's standpoint, Gene Marzolf's address on California water systems was presented. This appears elsewhere in this issue of GOLFDOM.

### Training Star Greenkeepers

Opening with the remark that the instructor in greenkeeping should have complete understanding of greenkeepers, and sense their problems, Prof. L. S. Dickinson of Massachusetts Agricultural college, spoke on the education of greenkeepers. He named as the qualifications of a first class greenkeeper: First, ability in handling men, and second, technical training and plenty of it, to be applied practically. He stated that the policy of the courses at Amherst was that the courses were for greenkeepers, not *in* greenkeeping. He preferred that the word "training" be used rather than "education" as a better indication of the method. Greenkeeping, he believed, should not be "taught," it should be "acquired."

In emphasizing the importance of prop-

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erly trained greenkeepers, he reminded the convention the amount of training necessary in other lines of endeavor to prepare men for the responsibilities of handling less money and caring for far less of an investment than the average metropolitan district greenkeeper has under his supervision.

He divided into four classes the sources of potential greenkeeping talent: active, but untrained greenkeepers; sons of greenkeepers; professionals; and new blood at present entirely unassociated with the business end of the game, this latter element having decided value in avoiding inbreeding which he stated was as much a danger in professional life as in biology.

### Beware Wrong Diagnosis

Dr. John Montieth, Jr., of the Green Section, in an illustrated lecture on brown patch causes and cures, impressed the dangers of wrong diagnosis, citing cases of leaf spot that had led greenkeepers astray. His slides showed a number of Arlington plats that were given various treatments, and illustrated vividly how fungi penetrate the pores and destroys leaf tissue. He related the Section's work with mercuric compounds and mentioned the improvement in fining the grass that resulted from successful treatment of brown patch. He touched briefly upon the study of fertilizers made at Arlington during the last three or four years.

Dr. Montieth spoke of a scald of mys-

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terious cause that is believed to be due to micro-organisms in the soil. So far as this scald has been observed, mercuric treatment checks it. Lime treatment brought the plat upon which the results were noted back into good shape.

During his address the Green Section expert drew many comparisons of plant and human life, one of which concerned leaf spot which, he stated, was as liable to attack a vigorous grass as weak growth. Turf disease study, he said, was getting more complicated but not confused.

The exposition part of the meeting was a decided success, due in no small degree to the work of Fred Burkhardt, chairman of the show committee. All space for the show was sold and the exhibitors reported an excellent volume of business.

**Beware of Price-Cuts in Pro Selling**

(Continued from Page 26)

players at the private clubs are not of any great desire to be thrifty in the purchase of golf equipment when this thrift involves sacrifice of quality.

Pro merchandising is undergoing a drastic change. No one knows it any better than the bright pros. This co-op investigation, whether or not it will be found practical to a limited extent, to a vast degree, or not at all, is a sure sign that the pros are awakening to their power as merchandisers. The buying group at Kansas City, headed by Bill Wotherspoon, shows that the critics of the pros who blanket the field with the statement that the pros are the babes in the woods of business, are plainly unaware of the work the pros are doing.

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