

Joint Meeting Move Approved

Since the proposal of a three-cornered conference of club operating officials was made in March GOLFDOM the official reception of the plans has been expressed in strongly favorable terms. Announcement of the definite details will be made as soon as officials of the National Association of Greenkeepers, the Club Managers association and the Professional Golfers association can get together.

Golf club officials and members may well rejoice at the signs of greater co-ordination and better financial showings of club operation which are obvious in the reception of the conference idea by the spokesmen for the department heads.

Typical of the comment forthcoming from the managers, pros and greenkeepers is the statement from Henry R. Dutton, secretary of the Club Managers' association. He tells GOLFDOM:

Managers' Executive Endorses Meet.

"The manager-greenkeeper-pro conference is a worthwhile idea and one which should be beneficial to all involved.

"I do not know who is responsible for the suggestion of this joint meeting, but I think it is a splendid one and you may rest assured that I will do everything possible to see it through.

"We hope to have a directors' meeting in the very near future, at which time this matter should come up for definite and official action. In the meanwhile, I am perfectly willing to be quoted that the association directors are favorable to the joint meeting idea.

"Of course, in a great many city clubs we have a similar proposition where the club employs a paid secretary and a paid manager and in some clubs we have a triumvirate of an accounting department, a treasurer's department and a department of management; and where the three do not function in harmony, and co-operation is not forthcoming, the lives of all three are apt to be full of trouble and, as a result, the club suffers.

"That harmony can exist, both in the city club and the golf club under conditions whereby there are executives for two or more branches of that particular club, has been demonstrated time and time again, but as you indicate, there has been a feeling of suspicion spring up which has no foundation in fact and

which suspicion can be eliminated through proper understanding."

Morley Boosts Conference.

Col. John Morley, president of the National Association of Greenkeepers, is all for the idea of a joint meeting and advises GOLFDOM that his association officials are working toward a conference with the P. G. A. and C. M. A. officials at which time the details of the proposed Columbus session can be definitely arranged.

Morley long has been a pluggler for this platform of team-work for at the first convention of the Club Managers' association held in January, 1926 at Hotel Sherman, Chicago, the veteran pilot of the greenkeepers vigorously advocated close co-operation of the managers, pros and greenkeepers. John, at that time, commented to the effect that the cautious Scots who started golf made the game plenty big enough for the three department heads to grow harmoniously. He has repeatedly stated that only the co-operation of the operating triumvirate would give golf clubs satisfactory results.

Pirie Checks in for Pros.

Alex Pirie, the P. G. A. chief, has given the conference proposition his enthusiastic endorsement. Pirie says: "Equal to the matters of exclusive interest for the professionals is this vital matter of departmental co-operation so our men, the greenkeepers and the managers can function as a unit elevating the standard and lowering the cost of club operation.

"The proposed Columbus conference embraces the staging of a business school for pros in which their shop business operations and their instruction service to their members will be constructively studied. By all means the professionals also are interested in taking advantage of the opportunity of promoting closer contacts with their allied department heads and in obtaining a better mutual understanding and helpfulness in club operation.

"The happy suggestion of a conference brings to us all a chance to prepare ourselves for more valuable service to our clubs and members and to impress upon our club officials the earnestness of our ambition in this direction."