

Club Department Heads Iron Out Problems at Boston

By HENRY R. DUTTON

THAT OLD LINE about the place MacGregor sits being the head of the table was paraphrased by the pros, managers and greenkeepers when representatives of the three department head organizations met for a breakfast business session at the Boston (Mass.) City Club, Tuesday, Nov. 17. The emissaries of the three associations decided that where the club member sits is the head of the table in golfdom and that no other factor outweighed the member's pleasure and profit in determining the policies of the various operating departments of the clubs.

Those attending the meeting were: For the professionals, Alex Pirie, Charles Hall; for the greenkeepers, John Morley, Fred Burkhardt, John MacGregor and John Quail; and for the club managers, Henry R. Dutton, Matt Campbell and Gardner Sleeper; the latter two attended as representatives by proxy for Colonel C. G. Holden of the Olympia Fields C. C. and for Frank Murray of the Ravisloe C. C. A letter was read from Colonel Holden addressed to the joint meeting.

During breakfast, Dutton outlined for the benefit of those who had not been present at the initial meeting of this group the reasons for its formation and the action taken at the first meeting of the group which was held at the Longue Vue club at Pittsburgh last year.

The chief aim of the conference is to promote closer co-operation between the three executive heads of golf and country clubs for the betterment of member service and business operation.

Based on the assertion of Alex Pirie at the Pittsburgh meeting that there were three good jobs in every country club for three good men and that the jobs and the men could be made better through friendly relations and harmonious activity there was little doubt left in the minds of those who had the decision to make that the time had come to go forward with the idea, not only for the interest of department heads concerned but also for the benefit of clubdom at large.

A short time after the 1931 annual convention of the Club Managers Association of America, at which time this initial group meeting was held, the various associations were invited to appoint representatives who would serve as exchange directors on the various boards of the three associations. This has been done and the official representatives were those who were present at the Boston meeting.

Primarily the initial good that can come from such a combination of forces is a happier relationship and all of these benefits to be derived through better understanding and co-operation, which, in itself is considerable advantage to all concerned.

Tackling Unemployment

It was brought up during the meeting that one of the additional aids which can come to the various members of the associations involved is that of closer workings on the question of employment. By way of explanation—if a manager should hear of a professional's position being open, or a professional or a greenkeeper hear of a manager's position being open, they would immediately get in touch with the secretary of the proper association and so advise, giving them the opportunity to recommend members of their group for said position.

Another feature which might be worked out through the joint committee is that of the arbitration of disputes, misunderstandings or discussions which arise between members of the various association in their daily work, upon which this board could sit and give its judgment as to the merits of the case and its proper disposition.

A third, but none the less important factor which will figure largely in the benefits to be derived, is that of showing combined strength of the three organizations to club memberships and to such organizations as the U. S. G. A. thereby indicating to them that the managers, professionals and greenkeepers who are the operating heads of golf and country clubs are working in harmony and will stand to-

gether for the good of the game and its personnel.

One of the high lights of the meeting was the expression of Alex Pirie that human nature will always be the same and it is for this reason that misunderstandings and disputes arise, but that, nevertheless, human nature is understandable if we will take the trouble to attempt that understanding, and by virtue of it, a closer, friendlier and beneficial relationship will result.

It was again brought out that the greatest cause for friction and misunderstanding comes through the fact that people do not take the trouble to know each other. It is felt that this situation has been, happily, decidedly improved so far as the three organizations are concerned through the two meetings which have already been held. Representatives of the three bodies have come to know each other personally, have come to a realization that each is a human being engaged in a worthwhile job with similar interests, and that after all, whether the man involved is the professional, greenkeeper or manager, he can rest assured that the other fellow is a good fellow and entitled to human consideration and kindly interest and helpfulness.

It is felt now that inasmuch as the representatives of the various bodies have benefited through these contacts that certainly the membership at large of the various organizations should have the same confidence in each other as displayed by their representatives.

Considerable discussion of interest characterized the entire meeting. All who were present left with the feeling that much good had been accomplished and that the future holds considerable promise for a new and happy relationship between the three groups.

It was suggested at the close of the meeting that a name be devised to describe the committee and the suggestion is made that it be called the board of Inter-Association Relations, sponsored jointly by the National Association of Greenkeepers, the Professional Golfers' Association and the Club Managers' Association.

THE GREENKEEPER who does not keep a "log book" of all that goes on under his direction is missing a good bet. It is mighty convenient to be able to check up on the progress of the course by comparing conditions with those prevailing in other years.

Traylor for Pres. Dept.

By Alex Pirie

ANYONE who has played golf with Melvin Traylor will warmly endorse the suggestion that Mr. Traylor receive the democratic presidential nomination.

I understand that being a banker is considered detrimental to the prospects of the Traylor nomination, possibly because the traditional reputation of bankers is to be aloof to the sentiments and thinking habits of the mass of the voters. Repeated performances in the presence of that master character analyst, Col. Bogey, reveal Mr. Traylor as one to whom democracy is not only a personal ideal but a personal practice.

It has been my pleasure to play a number of rounds with Mr. Traylor and to play with some of the leading business men of the midwest by whom Mr. Traylor is regarded as one of the foremost citizens of this part of the country.

I marvel at the manner in which he has directed his efforts to permit thorough attention to the vast business affairs in which he is personally interested and in which he is interested as a counsellor, and to still allow time for valuable civic duties and for recreation. To me it seems as though this organizing ability in his own life is a talent that could be profitably enlisted for the service of the entire country.

It is not the part of one in the modest, honorable roster of professional golf to pose as an authority on political matters, but on the rating of ability, character and achievement Mr. Traylor's qualifications for high office are so obvious that every one's pride in American citizenship should be further increased were his typically American qualities to receive the recognition of nomination to the presidency.

HAND labor makes up about 70 per cent of the maintenance cost of the average golf course. At the same time, hand labor is the easiest division of the maintenance routine in which to practice economies, both through more intelligent labor management and through substitution of machine operation for hand labor. Very often the cost of a machine is no more than the first year's wages of the laborers it replaces.