

U. S. G. A. Enlists Greenkeepers As Advisory Board Members

By HERB GRAFFIS

U. S. G. A. WELCOMES GREENKEEPER REPRESENTATION

(Special wire to GOLFDOM.)—It was a great pleasure for the United States Golf Association to appoint greenkeepers on the advisory section of its Green Section. I am confident that with the representation of greenkeepers on the committee we all will receive and exchange valuable advice and support. With all of us working together in harmony we will give the golf clubs of the country the best possible playing conditions.

GANSON DEPEW,

Chairman, Green Section,
United States Golf Association.

ANNOUNCEMENT of new committees of the Green Section recently made by H. H. Ramsay, president of the U. S. G. A. introduces into the turf field an advisory committee comprising prominent and competent greenkeepers and pro-greenkeepers as well as green-chairmen. This innovation, which makes the greenkeepers officially recognized partners in the Green Section activities, is the answer to the greenkeepers' prayer expressed repeatedly in GOLFDOM since the first issue of this publication.

It is certain that the introduction of greenkeepers into the official roster will result in a more vigorous prosecution of the Green Section's work. This labor undoubtedly has been handicapped by a shortage in finances and personnel as well as by the undercurrent of greenkeeper feeling in some spots that the organization was operating in the rarefied atmosphere of higher science rather than in the exacting territory of dirt. The able and conscientious John Montieth and Ken Welton of the Green Section have persistently endeavored to demonstrate by work and words that there is existing no foundation for such suspicion of scientific detachment and when Chairman Ganson Depew of the Green Section made his memorable address on "Co-operation" at the Greenkeepers' convention last February, close observers correctly saw prospects of early

recognition of greenkeepers by American golf's ruling body.

Greenkeepers who have muttered about neglect of the strictly practical problems of the fellow who is in dire need of the aid of applied science now will have a chance to voice their complaints officially through their own representatives or keep silent. The Green Section has been asking continuously for expressions of greenkeepers' rating of pressing problems. However there has been a sad lack of definite expressions from the field. In the meanwhile the Section, fully taxing its limited facilities, has done the best possible according to its own lights. Under the new line-up the greenkeepers are given plenty of opportunity for having their say.

Rating As Executives

Regardless of the merits of the present controversy as to whether or not the term *greenkeeper* or *golf course superintendent* most impressively and accurately describes the importance and scope of the course expert's work, it is almost a certainty that the debate has brought home to U. S. G. A. officials the wisdom of taking vital practical men into their close councils. Club officials, inclined to think in terms of their own business operations, have a true appreciation of superintendents' status in their shops, but with the average city man's attitude toward the essential soil toilers, have been subconsciously thinking of the course superintendent as merely a grass grower and grass cutter. In appointing greenkeepers to its advisory committee the U. S. G. A. has given the course executives inspiration and a place in the sun hitherto generally denied them.

In announcing the personnel of the new committees, President Ramsay also releases news of the research committee composed of Green Section scientists and experts from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This committee continues to be a valuable factor in the furtherance of turf work as it brings into the Section's activities use of government resources. The golf clubs have been paying heavy taxes

without getting any too much of a break in the allotment of government expenditures. With the lawn owners standing to benefit considerably from some of the findings, the results of the research will be extensively distributed.

Personnel of the Committees

Appointments of the committees, as announced by the U. S. G. A., are:

Research Committee

From the United States Department of Agriculture: K. F. Kellerman, F. H. Hillman, Russell A. Oakley, A. J. Pieters, Oswald Schreiner, Harvey L. Westover.

From the United States Golf Association Green Section: John Monteith, Jr., Kenneth Welton.

Advisory Committee

Douglas Call, Richmond, Va.; N. S. Campbell, Providence, R. I.; Wm. C. Fownes, Jr., Pittsburgh, Pa.; A. J. Goetz, Webster Groves, Mo.; William Harig, Cincinnati, Ohio; J. McRae Hartgering, Detroit, Mich.; Frederic C. Hood, Marion, Mass.; Norman Macbeth, Los Angeles, Cal.; John Morley, Youngstown, Ohio; Guy M. Peters, Chicago, Ill.; Alex Pirie, Fort Sheridan, Ill.; William J. Rockefeller, Toledo, Ohio; George V. Rotan, Houston, Texas; George Sargent, Columbus, Ohio; John Shanahan, West Newton, Mass.; Sherrill Sherman, Utica, N. Y.; Frederick Snare, Havana, Cuba; Charles E. VanNest, Minneapolis, Minn.; W. R. Walton, Washington, D. C.; Alan D. Wilson, Philadelphia, Pa.; M. H. Wilson, Jr., Cleveland, Ohio.

The latest move of the U. S. G. A. Ramsay regime should be exceedingly welcome news to the club department heads. Early in the year Ramsay and Charles Hall, president of the P. G. A., came to an agreement regarding pro employment that already is having beneficial effects. The policy of the U. S. G. A. administration plainly seems to be all for giving the club department heads a chance to do more specific, practical work for the clubs instead of being repressed by uniformed interference and absence of recognition by the game's "all highest."

Get Together, or Else—

When the managers, professionals and greenkeepers finally get together on the matter of mutual recognition and co-operation for the good of the clubs, the cause of business operation at golf clubs will be immeasurably advanced. The subject of

this alliance of three department heads was thoroughly discussed at a conference of the three association heads prior to the Club Managers' association meeting at Pittsburgh this spring. Definite action was taken by the pro associaton in inviting representatives of the other two groups to work with the P. G. A. executive body, but what the other associations will do depends on the decisions of their executive committee meetings to be held in the near future.

The U. S. G. A. in this appointment of the advisory committee has led the way to the sort of co-operation that the greenkeepers, pros and manufacturers had better adopt quickly for their own good.

1931 Golfer's Year Book Now Available

The Golfer's Year Book. 1931 Edition. Edited by William D. Richardson and Lincoln A. Werden. Golfer's Year Book Co., 331 Madison Ave., New York City. 806 pages. \$3.00.

FOR the golfer who find himself arguing on any phase of the game, fine ammunition for settling his dispute can be found in the Golfer's Year Book, the 1931 edition of which has just come from the presses. In addition to listing a large percentage of the golf clubs of the United States and Canada, with official's names and other data, the book gives full histories of all national, sectional and state tournaments and associations, golf data of foreign lands, a tournament calendar, a list of golf professionals, and a buyers' guide to golf products.

There are a number of special features. O. B. Keeler contributes a fine story of Bobby Jones, to whom this edition is dedicated. Innis Brown clarifies the rules of golf by arranging them alphabetically and defining them in a style more easily understood than the formal wording of the rules themselves, which are also included in their customary arrangement. Articles on various other phases of the game have been contributed by sundry authorities, including Bernard Darwin, Dr. John Monteith, Jr., Albert R. Gates, Clifford C. Wendehack and Ganson Depew.

The subject matter of the book is a true reflection of the game of golf in its present popularity and the answer to almost any question on the game can be found within its covers.