



This photograph of the Columbus show's delegates and speakers includes only a portion

## Record Buying at Columbus

**A** RECORD volume of course equipment and supplies buying was the pleasant surprise developed at the annual convention and exhibition of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America, held at Columbus, O., Feb. 2 to 6.

There were 533 registered attendants at the affair and probably 100 who did not go through the formality of registration, so in men, as well as in money in circulation at the event, the meeting established another high mark.

It was made plainly evident that the keynote in course maintenance this year is the replacement of men by machinery. Maintenance budget trimming naturally has hit the payrolls hard, leaving the greenkeeper the problem of keeping the course in good condition with smaller forces. Extensive mechanization is thereby being forced on the golf clubs, according to all signs in view at this meeting.

The program gave indication that the men responsible for golf course maintenance are availing themselves of each promising item of scientific aid. The speaking part of the convention had an interesting flavor of "Seeing America First." The opening session was held in the basement of the Columbus Auditorium. Hammering of men engaged in construction of booths for an automobile show provided too much competition for the straining vocal organs of the greens experts, so the second session was held in

the balcony of the Auditorium. Strung out on this perch the boys listened to the second battalion of talent and gazed in wrapt horror at Prof. George McClure jauntily parked on a flimsy railing 20 feet above the concrete floor of the amphitheater. The faithful seekers of the light followed the peripatetic convention to the Deshler-Wallick hotel for the final session. But it was a great show, with a program of positive practical value.

Addresses presented at the convention will appear as space permits in *GOLFDOM*, and later will be available in a booklet issued by O. M. Scott & Sons Co. Many of the addresses were lengthy affairs but, at that, could not be cut without sacrificing important details. The tenor of the material plainly showed that the master of course maintenance is the fellow who is on his toes to grab the latest findings of the scientists and the practical men, and at the same time to be such a versatile sort of a gentleman that the average golfer's idea of a greenkeeper as a sort of a sublimated plow pilot becomes rank slander.

Considering the addresses at the convention one was brought to the conclusion that the Philadelphia District course maintenance men in calling their Association an organization of golf course *superintendents*, rather than greenkeepers, were absolutely right in employing descriptive and "selling" terminology instead of being



of those who came to listen to the experts and to inspect the manufacturer's displays.

## Starts Greenkeepers' Year

guilty, as some of the boys alleged, of putting on the Ritz.

To run through the highlights of the program:

After Col. John Morley had registered the welcome and keynote speech of the clinic, Tom Winton, veteran successful golf course architect, gave the greenkeepers a condensed and exceedingly helpful primer of architecture. Tom outlined a nice balance of playing factors and maintenance aids, putting his material in such shape that it probably will prevent some of those tragic jobs of construction and alteration done by the loving hands at home.

Martin Davey, president of the Davey Tree Expert Company, warned his listeners of the heavy toll golf course trees may pay as a result of the prolonged drought of last year. Davey detailed some of the important work that is necessary if trees are to be restored to healthy condition.

### Explains Mineral Fertilizer Functions

R. J. H. DeLoach, director of agricultural research for Armour Fertilizer Works, presented data from an army of soil scientists in arriving at his conclusion that the trend is toward mineral fertilizers rather than organics and was just one more shot of dynamite in the lively mineral-organic set-to. Excerpts of the address are appearing in GOLFDOM. The complete address will be published in

pamphlet form at some later day by the Armour organization.

Theodore E. Odland, agronomist of the Agricultural Experiment station of Rhode Island, told of the characteristics of good seed and the sources of supply of seed commonly used on American golf courses. He presented some interesting records of seed produced at the Rhode Island station and the influence of fertilizer on this production. He dwelt briefly on the prospect of greenkeepers raising bent grass seed for limited needs on their courses.

### Glad Hand from the Green Section

Ganson Depew, veteran in the official roster of the U. S. G. A., and the new chairman of the Green section, told of the plans of the section in extension of its practical assistance to greenkeepers. The title of his address was "Cooperation." He referred to the cooperation between the government and the Green section and that between the greenkeepers and the section, and forecast that an extension of this teamwork would bring the section, the greenkeepers and the various state and college turf research agencies into a position of much greater value to the golf clubs.

The genial delegate from the U. S. G. A. told of the struggles and achievements of his predecessor, Wynant Vanderpool, and Dr. John Monteith and Kenneth Welton in their work to assist greenkeepers. Depew commented:

"Since the Green section was established, I fear there has been a feeling by some greenkeepers that we were doing something to usurp their privileges and were treading on forbidden ground, but nothing is farther from the truth. The work, on the contrary, was intended to be a help to those who knew very little about the conditioning and maintenance of new golf courses which are constantly springing up and to give greenkeepers of experience valuable information obtained from experimental and research work.

"There was absolutely no thought or intention of forcing anything on greenkeepers or clubs. At a large expense the Green section simply offers its advice and experimental work to anyone who wishes to use it or ignore it, as seems best."

He further referred to the action of the Golf Unions of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales in connection with greenkeeping problems, in showing the advantages of co-operation.

In his remarks on the extent of the Green section work, the chairman stated that the Green section annual expense of \$42,000 is \$9,000 more than is received in dues from member clubs. He paid high tribute to the achievements of greenkeepers and their essential place in the golf field, and closed with an earnest plea for the closest teamwork.

### Water Problems to the Front

Two papers on watering lead off Wednesday. John MacGregor, greenkeeper at Chicago G. C., told of his work in connection with a pioneering installation of fairway watering in the midwest and very frankly confessed to the shortcomings in installation and operation he discovered while he was getting the job into satisfactory shape. The Chicago course expert's counsel was to get the fairway watering started early enough in the season, and to employ experienced advice and caution before leaping into fairway irrigation.

Dr. Howard Sprague, in speaking of "Some Water Relations of Turf Plants," gave what many considered the feature address of the meeting. Sprague, bright specimen of the younger school of turf scientists, gave the greenkeepers much helpful data from the New Jersey and other experiments. His paper, which is of especially high value in connection with the growth of fairway irrigation, appears elsewhere in this issue.

Edward B. Dearie, jr., golf course builder and greenkeeper, was the third of the

afternoon's performers on the subject of water. Dearie went into the subject of drainage from the viewpoint of the man who reaps the harvest of misery and expense if the drainage installation isn't made correctly. His paper had many practical pointers on the proper construction and supervision of a drainage system.

Prof. J. W. White of Pennsylvania State College told of the work done at Penn State in determining the effect of mercury compounds and arsenate of lead on soil nitrification, calling attention to the fact that mercury compounds necessary to combat fungous diseases of turf grasses may reduce, seriously, the available nitrogen of soils which are in need of lime. Arsenate of lead, stimulated the production of soil nitrates.

B. R. Leach, in his usual incisive way, counseled the greenkeepers to pay more attention to selling themselves to their clubs and members. He detailed some of the sales resistance encountered. Leach told of the value of figuring the budgets and doing the course cost accounting in equipping the greenkeeper to talk to his chairman and officials in terms they could understand. The Jerseyman again banged away at his pet horror, Service Bureau buying, and pointed out where that noble experiment had not only failed to justify itself in a financial way, but had been a handicap to greenkeepers' development of a more complete mastery of their business.

Leach again asked for a formal and definite recognition of the greenkeeper in the Green section's work, and forecast that the day was not far distant when the greenkeepers would have representation in the Green section administration. "When that day comes," Leach stated, "the status of greenkeepers as individuals and members of the profession, will be rounded out and extended in a way the greenkeeper never has yet enjoyed."

### Defines Greenkeeper-Chairman Status

Prof. L. S. Dickinson of Massachusetts Agricultural college impartially criticized greenkeepers and chairmen for their common errors and set forth some sound policies for their harmonious relations. He spanked the greenkeepers for a tendency toward an inferiority complex, which he traced to a failure to recognize that the greenkeeper was operating an important factory involving considerable investment. He turned chairmen over his paternal knee and whacked out a warning against

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COL. MORLEY AGAIN HEADS N. A. G. A.

John Morley, veteran greenkeeper of the Youngstown (O.) C. C., was unanimously re-elected president of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America, at the 1931 annual convention. The Colonel has been president of the organization since its inception.

The only change in the official roster was the election of John Anderson, Crestmont C. C., West Orange, N. J., as fifth V. P., in place of Lewis M. Evans, resigned. Evans, who recently located in Ohio, formerly registered from the Philadelphia district.

New York was chosen for the 1932 meeting, with the convention hall and hotel yet to be determined.

Officers of the N. A. G. A.:

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| John Morley.....     | President    |
| John MacGregor.....  | First V. P.  |
| W. J. Sansom.....    | Second V. P. |
| Robert Hayes .....   | Third V. P.  |
| George Davies.....   | Fourth V. P. |
| John Anderson.....   | Fifth V. P.  |
| Fred Burkhardt ..... | Treasurer    |
| John Quail .....     | Secretary    |
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using the course as a toy, monkeying around with the things that made it tick, and in general doing exactly the fooling with each little detail that he wouldn't permit in his own plant. After some specific and constructive criticism along this line, Dickinson went to work on the present trend of extensive mechanization of course maintenance. Instead of saving the money represented in machinery economies, the Amherst expert pointed out that the possible saving is too often diverted to riding one of the chairman's hobbies, for instance the building of a new green that eventually results in increased maintenance cost. Dickinson figures there should be some way of giving the greenkeeper credit for the money he saves while maintaining a high standard of course condition.

He advised a close inspection of course accounting so figures couldn't be juggled

at the expense of the course. He referred to the twice-a-season course condition appraisal he has written about in GOLFDOM. The complete text of the convention address will appear in these pages.

The accounting phase of the greenkeepers' work was handled in enlightening fashion by E. W. Doty of the Cleveland District Golf association. Doty presented an outline of primary and secondary course maintenance costs and showed the greenkeepers where to watch for unfair allotments of costs.

Joe Williamson, greenkeeper at Scioto, gave an excellent resume of practical greenkeeping as shown by his successful experience of more than a quarter century in the U. S. and prior years in England. This address will appear in an early issue of GOLFDOM.

The program concluded with a lively but limited open forum discussion, conducted by Prof. Dickinson. Soil acidity was the feature subject.

AS AN example of what the P. G. A. sections are up against in the problem of the false-alarm pro, and how these sections take it on the chin without whining, we can refer to a case in Pittsburgh last season. At one of the pro-amateur events three of the punks, masquerading as pros, signed tickets at the club. The burglars took a run-out. When the matter was called to the attention of the Pittsburgh P. G. A. officials, the club bill was promptly paid, although the offenders were not P. G. A. members and the event was not under P. G. A. auspices.

Whether or not the good pro is a member of the P. G. A., the P. G. A. is doing a good job for him in accepting a responsibility for pro actions. We think the sections are too broad, many times, in handling the task of being social sponsor for every lame-brained chump who labels himself a pro, with no credentials to back up his claim. In handling this work they should point out to club officials that P. G. A. members must be responsible before they are taken into membership. In the majority of cases (and certainly in the Pittsburgh case) the P. G. A. sectional officials are hard-boiled enough to make a second offense unhealthy for the punks.

Apparently, to the official designation of Albert R. Gates as "business administrator and counsel," the boys had better add "house dick"; protection against the punks is a primary need of the worthwhile professionals.