

STAGE FRIGHT COSTLY

Greensmen's Shyness Permits

Fast-Talkers' Mastery

By SKEETER

MAY I ADD MY bit to Leach's remarks in April GOLFDOM? I have followed his spectacular flight and find from direct observation and personal contact that he has about hit the nail on the head. It puts me in mind of one experiment station man who was scheduled to conduct round-table discussion periods during a turf short-course.

This professor asked one of his men why the response during his period was so poor, especially since the subject matter was good and well prepared. The man made this reply: "You make the mistake of holding a round-table session when others than greenkeepers are present. Greenkeepers are not a talkative lot when mixed with outsiders; but boy, just get them together with yourself and your subject, which is very vital at the present time, and then have some 'joint-oil' ready—you'll need it for your tongue in order to keep up with their questions."

The man was right. The greenkeeper does keep to himself and very possibly is too clannish, but nevertheless when he tries to put an idea over and the hot air merchant in him is not good enough to prevent his being overruled, he shuts up rather than continue to "take" it. Of course, if the other "merchant's" stuff goes over (it very often does temporarily) the greenkeeper was wrong; if it doesn't go over, the poor greenkeeper gets it in the pants.

After years of this and that, with here and there a little feeling of friendship from some of our technical friends, the greenkeepers have found that the basic soil principles established long before golf courses arrived still stand, yet they are almost daily disregarded. In construction and maintenance, too, it is ignored.

Greenkeepers in my own state have had the good fortune to be given the highest sort of co-operation from the state college; the main difficulty has been lack of funds. The station certainly has been working along the lines of greenkeeper's queries, such as: how much acidity can we stand and for how long? what kinds of bent like what pH values? how much lime can be used and for how long? what are the

basic causes of clover in greens? to what extent do soil variations affect grass types? will our native stoloniferous grasses produce good turf? will they resist disease better than established turf grasses imported from some other part of the country?

Greenkeepers realize that many theoretically correct recommendations cannot be carried out in practice where the greenkeeper must catch as catch can with top-soil, etc., but nevertheless they are very glad to work with the stations and find out whenever possible the good points and the poor points of a given line of experiment. Practical results are what the greenkeeper wants and he is willing to go along with all who want to help.

Mich. and Border Cities Greensmen Make W. Smith Chief

THE MICHIGAN and Border Cities Greenkeepers' Assn. held their seventh annual banquet and election at the Birmingham (Mich.) G. C., March 28.

Forty-five greenkeepers and their guests sat down to a fine dinner.

Present as guests were S. L. Beymer, president of the Birmingham club; G. E. Baldwin, vice-president and chairman of the house committee; H. E. McCurry, chairman of membership committee, and representatives of the Lawn Equipment Corp., Ideal Power Mower Co., Birmingham Lawn Supply Co., E. Chamberlain Co. and Toro Mfg. Co. After dinner the guests were taken to the recreation room to enjoy billiards, pool and ping pong while the greenkeepers held their election.

The following officers were elected:

President—Wm. Smith, Red Run G. C., Royal Oak, Mich.

Vice-President—Benj. Bertram, Burroughs Recreation Farm and G. C., Brighton, Mich.

Secretary-Treasurer—Ruben Scott, Detroit Municipal G. C.

Directors: John Gray, Essex County C. C., Windsor, Can.; Wm. Beupre, Lockmoor C. C., Grosse Pointe, Mich., Leo Wedyke, Glen Oaks C. C., Farmington, Mich.; E. Stoddard, Monroe C. C., Monroe, Mich.

Herb Shave, retiring president, was tendered a vote of thanks for the able manner he had carried on with the association. Herb also was appointed publicity man for 1932.