



Greenchairmen and greenkeepers listening to Dr. Sprague at Rutgers University turf test plots.

NICE TURNOUT FOR N. J. FIELD DAY

By C. KAIBY

STORMY weather did not reduce the usual attendance of 200 visitors at the New Jersey Turf Field Day held at Rutgers university, New Brunswick, June 21. Dr. Howard B. Sprague, Agronomist-in-charge, managed the program cooperatively sponsored by the United States, New York, Metropolitan and New Jersey golf associations.

At 2:30 p. m., Dr. Sprague led an inspection tour of test plots that were plainly labeled for identification and reference.

Following dinner at the Hotel Woodrow Wilson, the first speaker was Thomas C. Longnecker, aid to Sprague in the N. J. Golf Turf Advisory service. In a thirty-minute talk, he summarized his master degree thesis of 115 pages, dealing with the penetration of lime and other nutrients in sod at various times during the season. He found that finely ground limestone put on at rate of one ton per acre, remained mostly in the top inch of turf, 18 months after application. The change in soil nutrients and reaction varies during the season, due to being used by plants when growing. Lesser variations were found in the second, third and fourth inches of soil.

In the latter half of the hour, Sprague gave some interesting points on *poa annua* culture and control. "The growth," he said, "starts in the fall and reaches maturity the following spring. Around May first, in this locale, is the peak of growth."

Control methods suggested are: seed in late summer with an aggressive type of creeping bent to compete with the natural seeding of the *poa annua*. Secure good sub-drainage, and apply nitrate (soluble) fertilizers in fall to reduce seed production of this species. A high phosphate content of the soil encourages *poa annua*. Lead arsenate gives some control.

The meeting was also addressed by Dr. John Monteith, Jr., of the Green Section, covering a variety of subjects.

Monteith said that courses adjoining in communities had the same general problems and principals of maintenance, and differed only in details. On weed control, the best thing to do was to get conditions right for the turf, and adverse for weed growth, which is easier said than done. Colored lantern slides of views shown took the audience on a golf course tour of the continent, illustrating some 35 courses. One slide showed browned turf that "committed suicide," as Dr. Monteith expressed it. Incidentally, Dr. Monteith left on June 26, for a two month trip abroad, touring the courses in the British Isles, Continental countries, and Scandanavia.