

# ARLINGTON TOUR WELL ATTENDED

By JOHN MONTEITH, Jr.

**A**PPROXIMATELY 125 greenkeepers, green-committee members and other individuals interested in turf grasses assembled September 26 at the Arlington (Va.) Turf Garden for an all-day program meeting which was sponsored jointly by the USGA Green Section and the National Greenkeeping Superintendents Assn. In addition to greenkeepers from the East, there were representatives from golf courses as far south as Florida and as far west as Indiana.

During the morning session the experimental work at the Arlington Turf Garden was discussed and the plots were exhibited. Of outstanding interest among the numerous and varied experiments in progress at Arlington were the test plots of the new selections made there of creeping bent, Kentucky bluegrass, and fescue.

The possibilities of vegetative propagation of carefully selected strains were strikingly exhibited in the disease resistance of new selections of creeping bent. The new, unnamed strains are grown alongside of the commonly accepted best varieties. One group of plots was given the regular treatments for disease control and the duplicate group of plots was left untreated. In general it was shown that many of the new selections and the standard varieties produced a more or less satisfactory turf when treated with disease control measures. However, in the untreated areas where nearly all of the common varieties and many of the new selections were partially or totally destroyed, a few of the new selections showed remarkable resistance to disease attack. In these latter cases there was

no evidence of disease even in the untreated areas, in spite of the very hard summer.

Another interesting series of plots showed the conspicuous difference in the turf of a variety of velvet bent grown from stolons and that of the same variety grown from seed.

The vegetative propagation of selected strains on Kentucky bluegrass also aroused keen interest. The visitors were shown selections which had been made for ability to "stand up" under varying mowing heights and also for resistance to leaf-spot. Great interest was expressed in the outcome of experiments now in progress to determine the adaptability of the vegetative planting of bluegrass on a large scale.

The greenkeepers from the South were particularly interested in the plots of Bermuda grass, the various selections of which show striking differences in turf quality as well as color.

## New Zoysia Grass Looks Promising

The grass which aroused the most discussion was the oriental importation—Zoysia. This grass makes a dense, durable turf which stands up well under extreme tramping. Several greenkeepers who have been trying out small quantities of this grass under play reported that it stands up remarkably well even under the most severe wear.

Attention was drawn to the relative durability over an eight-year period of many organic materials used in the preparation of soil for greens. The plots where some of the materials were used still remained at the original level, whereas in the plots where others were used the soil had settled as much as three inches below the original surface, owing to the decomposition of the organic material.

The possibility of a short cut to a weed-free topdressing by the use of tear gas



Dr. John Monteith shown lecturing to greenkeepers inspecting test plots.



This turf was under water for two days. Note difference in resistance to flood-waters. On the right, virtually undamaged, is an area of creeping bent; on the left, what was left of an area of Colonial bent.

(chloropicrin) for soil sterilization was new to most of those present. Indications are that this method will provide a quick effective method of sterilizing compost or turf, killing both the vegetation and weed seeds with a minimum amount of labor and without destroying the physical structure of the soil.

Other projects of interest to those present included fertilizer tests on both greens and fairways, attempts to improve crab-grass-infested fairways, various weed-control plots, plots showing the effect of various methods of application of mercurial fungicides for disease control and the restoration of color to faded turf through the use of organic dyes.

During the afternoon a tour of some of the local clubs included visits to Chevy Chase Club, Columbia G&CC, Burning Tree Club, and the Capital G&CC. This tour was planned and arranged for by Bill Leverton and his committee, appointed by Joe Ryan, president of the National greenkeeping organization.

At the Capital club visitors were shown two experimental greens which had been planted with the cooperation of the Green Section. Eleven different selections of bent grasses were planted in as many sectors on No. 3 green and 16 different

selections on No. 14 green. On each of these greens, the well known varieties including Washington, Metropolitan and seaside creeping bents, as well as colonial bent, had been planted as checks. All of the grasses, including both the well-known varieties and the new selections, were marked only by a number. The greenkeepers were given printed cards on which appeared the diagram of the green with the correct number of the grass in each sector. They were then asked to rate each grass, placing their rating in the sector bearing the number of the grass under consideration. The identity of the check varieties was, of course, not disclosed until all of the scores were turned in. Then the ratings were tabulated, and the results showed that with this group of experienced men, some of the new selections rated higher than any of the well-known varieties.

In the evening, Dr. John Monteith, Jr., presided at a dinner at the Capital club. Short talks were given by Joe Ryan, president of the NGS&A; R. F. Arnott, member of the Green Section committee and chairman of the N. J. G. A. Green Section; John Anderson; Dr. Fred V. Grau; Dr. O. J. Noer; and R. K. Aten of the Capital G&CC.

The enthusiastic response of the greenkeepers to the meeting was summed up by Joe Ryan who, in his evening talk described the affair as having been both educational and enlightening, and expressed the sincere hope that arrangements might be worked out to make such a meeting an annual affair. Further expression of the interest shown by the visitors was evidenced by the fact that on Tuesday morning a good sized delegation reappeared at the Arlington Garden for a continuation of the discussions.

One of the cleverest Harvest Home party announcements ever to come to GOLFDOM's attention was sent out recently by Butterfield CC (Chicago Dist.). It consists of a regulation red bandana handkerchief on which in large blue type is printed: "Butterfield's Famous Annual Harvest Home Party. Saturday evening, October 22, 1938. Al Morey's Orchestra; also the Rhythm Rangers. A friendly tip: Get Your Reservations in Early!"

The 18" bandana was neatly folded to fit a small envelope. The only other enclosure was a reservation card in a self-addressed envelope.