

1940 Is Biggest S

Despite weather that was none too favorable, 100 greenkeepers and club officials turned out for the annual greenkeepers short course at Iowa State College, Ames, March 5-6. However, compared to the blizzard that greeted the greenkeepers at the conference a year ago, the weather was mild in comparison.

One of the very interesting things brought out at the session was the widespread interest in Atlantic City bent. Clar-

This report on the bent was echoed by the other state greenkeepers. The only disagreement was that some of the superintendents felt that the sworl in the grass is objectionable and does not permit the truest putting.

Another very interesting discussion was on the fundamental nature of transplanting plants. Prof. B. S. Pickett, head of the Dept. of Horticulture at ISC, talked on the principles of transplanting, and the



ence Yarn of the Woodside Golf Course in Des Moines, reported he had planted this bent on a large number of his greens, and found it very satisfactory. He said the grass is highly resistant to brown-patch and is also resistant to cutworms. These two troubles are, of course, quite important to this state, and the fact that the bent has this resistance probably means it is the leading grass for Iowa putting greens.

writer spoke on the principles of pruning, especially tree shrubs. The greensmen, realizing that trees are a very decided asset on a golf course, and that in view of the last few dry years in the Midwest, measures must be taken to plant trees, and to take care of those we have, asked many questions on the subject.

S. W. Edgecombe,
Extension Horticulturist,
Iowa State College

WISCONSIN Greenkeepers Assn. and Midwest Greenkeepers Assn. held their short course for greenkeepers March 11-13, at the Horticultural Bldg., U. of Wisconsin, Madison. Attendance at the conference was 64. Featured speakers were Dr. John Monteith, O. J. Noer and

C. A. Tregillus. Several attending greenkeepers also gave short talks.

Annual greenkeepers banquet was held in the Wisconsin Memorial Union building Tuesday evening, March 12. A feature of the banquet was an illustrated lecture on Guatemala given by Prof. H. L.



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Ewbank. The pictures, which were in color, were taken by Prof. Ewbank in his travels through that country.

The program for the conference was arranged by Prof. James G. Moore of the

U. of Wisconsin horticultural department. Prof. Moore was also general chairman of the meeting.

O. C. Williams, Secy.
Wisconsin Greenkeepers Assn.

MORE than 100 greenkeepers attended the Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science short course held at East Lansing under the direction

of C. E. Millar, professor of soils, MSC, on Thursday and Friday, March 7 and 8.



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Prof. Millar especially commended the contributions the superintendents made to the course program and forecast development of the experience reports in future Michigan State short courses. The round

table discussions hit a new high of definite value.

Hiram Godwin on the production of grasses, Ward Cornwell on everyday main-

tenance problems, and Bruce Matthews on golf course planting, were among features of the short course program for which greenkeepers were responsible. Highlighting the educational program also were addresses by Dr. John Monteith, Jr., and Dr. O. J. Noer. Lively discussion followed both these addresses.

FOURTEENTH annual golf course maintenance conference held at the seventh Recreation Conference at Massachusetts State College, Amherst, March 15-17, attracted 100 greensmen to the sessions on turf maintenance. All of Friday morning, March 15, was devoted to graduation exercises of the MSC 1940 winter school for greenkeepers.

The regular educational portion of the conference got under way that afternoon, with Robert Trent Jones, golf architect, speaking on the relation of the greenkeeper and the architect. Richard L. Jackson, a golfer for 40 years and greenchairman of the Silver Springs GC, Ridgefield, Conn., for the last ten, spoke next on the "Greenkeeper and the Committee Chairman." Jackson by profession is a history teacher, and he pointed out that history and a good memory were valuable

assets to anyone interested in greenkeeping. Ralph T. King, director of the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station at Syracuse, N. Y., was the third speaker of the afternoon program, talking on "The Greenkeeper and Nature."

Tom Walsh, PGA president, got the Friday evening session under way with a talk on the "Greenkeeper and the Professional Golfer." Following Walsh's talk, which the greensmen termed 'really a hum-dinger,' colored slides and motion pictures on maintenance and construction operations, as taken by Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson with cameras and films furnished him by alumni of the MSC winter school, were shown. The first day's program was concluded with the "Greenkeeper and His Bull Fest," a discussion period in charge of the alumni of the MSC greens school. Among the subjects discussed were "Sell-

ing Greenkeeping" and "Public Relations," led jointly by Samuel Mitchell and Kent Bradley. Other discussion leaders were John Counsell and Guy C. West.

Saturday morning, O. J. Noer, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, led an interesting discussion on cooperation between the greenkeeper and the commercial man. Other speakers at this session were Robert Smith, Indian Hill CC, Newington, Conn., who spoke on the greenkeeper 'and his community,' and MSC president, Hugh P. Baker, whose subject was "The Greenkeeper and Himself." Saturday afternoon, Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson of MSC spoke on "The Greenkeeper and his Business Management; Howard B. Sprague, of the N. J. Experiment Station, talked on "The Greenkeeper and the College." Sprague then led a period of interesting discussion on plant breeding of new grass strains, a topic that held great interest.

Annual banquet for the greenkeepers was held Saturday evening in Draper Hall on the MSC campus. At this affair, Ed Casey gave the boys an excellent talk which practically stopped the evening's show so far as speakers were concerned, when he chairmanned the night's entertainment. Casey called on a few of the boys to speak, which they did in their own 'inimitable manner.'

The Experts on Trial program on Sunday concluded the conference. Chief 'Justice' Sprague and 'eight old men' sat on the 'bench' to hand down decisions on particular golf course problems. This, as always, was one of the most popular sessions of the conference.

C. K. B.

Antiquated Course Equipment Costs Clubs Plenty

By Anthony J. Sperandio

THERE are many golf courses with worn-out and wasteful machinery. This expense is getting greater day by day, because greenkeepers and the chairmen of the green committees will not give a little time to eliminate this costly inefficiency.

Many club members have asked, "Why don't you buy new equipment?" Then the club officials' sad story of losing a few members and the small amount for green fees is told again. The question of money for equipment is dropped. These clubs are creating a greater expense. They go more into the red each year. In a few years, a

guest will say, "I can remember when that golf course was in beautiful condition, but I cannot understand why it's so run-down now."

Now is the time to act, not next year. Take account of stock and see if your present mowers, tractors, and other equipment are in need of replacement. If the expense necessitates the borrowing of money to buy this equipment, the new equipment will repay the loan faster than the antique equipment wastes money.

Many club officials are living on a budget each year. They may minimize next year because they may not be in office then. The golf course will be there this year, next year and in the years to come, but in what condition?

The sad part of this condition is that when a club has a little profit the members are very anxious to spend it. For example, a member thinks a new trap should be made on the eighth hole. This may or may not be an improvement to the hole. The members should stop to consider all angles. Would the money used on the trap and its upkeep be well spent or should that money be used to replace equipment such as water pipe, sprinklers, or other necessities?

Golf courses are business enterprises today. Every dollar invested should give returns in appearance or should help to cut expenses by its investment in efficient equipment.

Club Managers 1940 Program Given Impetus by Convention

Club Managers Assn. already is feeling beneficial effects of the Detroit convention's influence on membership. The boys and girls were brought by by-laws technicalities to the verge of a political wrangle at the annual election, but it was wisely and merrily detoured in a manner which strengthened the organization's harmony and unity.

Following the windup of the election, the Pabst Brewing Company served a buffet lunch and Blue Ribbon beer in a room adjoining the convention hall. Pabst, Anheuser-Busch and others received in their various rooms at informal affairs. Not that the managers needed to be reminded, but it was noteworthy that the leading beer people were careful about serving their product at the right temperature instead of at the near-freezing point that ruins the taste of good beer.