

Iowa Conference

By H. L. LANTZ

★ Spring meetings are timely and popular with the members of the Iowa Greenkeepers Association. Seventy of them attended the meeting held at Des Moines, March 21 and 22, in the auditorium of the Globe Machinery and Supply Company, through the courtesy of Joe Morgan, in charge of the company's turf department.

The Iowa Greenkeepers Association is alive and doing exceedingly well, thanks to Pres. Bill Keating and Secy.-Treas. Ted Adams. Bill knows his turf and for many years has been in charge at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club. Ted presides at the Waveland Municipal Golf Course at Des Moines.

The program was varied and was designed to cover wartime golf course maintenance problems. The meeting was described as "one of the best in years".

O. J. Noer, well-known authority on golf course problems, covered two subjects of timely interest. The first had to do with turf diseases and greens problems in general. "Streamlined wartime maintenance", said Noer, "is responsible for many turf problems." A lack of top-dressing has led and will lead to matted greens. A low nitrogen level gives rise to more dollar spot.

As for fungicides to control brown patch and dollar spot, Noer reported that Thiosan, where used properly, had given satisfactory control of both diseases throughout those areas which he had visited last year. Iowa experience last year, a bad one for both dollar spot and brown patch, showed that 2 lbs. per 6,000 sq. ft. of Thiosan were required to control these

diseases. Lighter applications were used successfully when the infections were less severe. It was also brought out that Thiosan should be applied with as little water as was necessary to cover the green. Also, it should be applied early enough in the day to dry thoroughly before evening dews descend.

A practical fertilizer plan for greens was outlined by Noer. Because bent grass clippings are removed from the green and with them nitrogen, phosphorous and potash, it becomes necessary to replenish the greens by additions of fertilizers containing these plant food elements. Clippings contain (dry basis) 2-3 percent nitrogen, 1-1½ percent phosphoric and 2 percent potash. Where an organic nitrogen fertilizer such as Milorganite is used, Noer recommended the following fertilizer program:

1. Early spring—15-20 lbs. Milorganite plus 10 lbs. superphosphate and 5 lbs. potash per 1000 sq. ft.
2. Five to six weeks later—15-20 lbs. Milorganite.
3. Each three to four weeks thereafter—5-10 lbs. Milorganite.
4. Early fall—25-35 lbs. Milorganite plus phosphorous and potash.

Several soluble high nitrogen fertilizers may be used if available to supplement this program. Frequent and light applications may be made to maintain a constant level of nitrogen during the growing season.

Commercial specialty fertilizer for golf courses are being mixed with an analysis of 6-12-4. High nitrogen fertilizers include "Uramon", 42% N., and Ammonium Nitrate, 32% N.

Dr. A. L. Bakke of the Botany Department of Iowa State College presented an

Iowa Greenkeepers' conference drew this galaxy of greenkeeping talent March 21-22. The group was photographed in front of the Globe Machinery auditorium at Des Moines where conference sessions were held. Discussions brought forth earlier war year lessons to apply in solving this year's course maintenance problems, of which the greenkeepers expect many, but are scared of none of them.



—O. J. Noer, photo.

Golfdom

excellent review of the development and prospective future value of chemical weed control on golf courses and other areas. Dr. Bakke has done a great deal of experimental work along this line. *His paper will appear in GOLFDOM.*

Dr. Harold Gunderson, extension zoologist and entomologist at Iowa State College, reviewed the common insect pests common to trees in wooded areas of Iowa. The spring canker worm has been extremely prevalent in Iowa. Banding helps in the control, but where power sprayers are available, spraying is cheaper and more efficient. Moles and gophers were especially troublesome on golf courses during the past two years. Dr. Gunderson says moles cannot be poisoned. Trapping and other time consuming methods are the chief remedies. Cyanide gas will get them, but it's a method that needs much follow-up work. Gophers are readily poisoned with baits made up as follows: Slice carrots or potatoes in $\frac{1}{4}$ inch by 2 inch chunks; mix 1/16 oz. strychnine into a tablespoon of flour; then thoroughly coat one quart of the carrot or potato chunks with the poison flour mixture. Place two or three chunks in the runway. Mr. Gopher cuts them in two because they are too long to carry, and in doing so he becomes

a dead gopher.

H. L. Lantz of Iowa State College reviewed the season's experience with twenty strains of bent grasses which are in the trial plots at Ames. This fine turf project is sponsored by the Iowa Greenkeepers Association in cooperation with the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station. The chief purpose of the project at present is to study different strains of bent grasses as to their adaptation to Iowa conditions. These studies cover hardiness, resistance to summer heat, disease, vigor and general desirability for putting greens as compared with the widely grown Metropolitan and Washington bents. Through these studies it is hoped that better adapted and more resistant strains of bent grasses will be found for Iowa conditions. The turf garden was established in 1939 and several additions have been made since then. The bent grass strains were secured from the U. S. Golf Association Green Section and from the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station. To date, C-19 and C-1 have shown marked superiority in hardiness and in general behavior. The turf garden project at Ames is also cooperating with the Greens Section in a study of various fertilizer combinations.

CDGA Dime-A-Round Goal is \$50,000

Details of popular war relief plan offered other golf bodies

The alert Chicago District Golf Association again will make an intensive drive during 1944 to raise considerable money from golfers through their Dime A Round plan. This plan, brain-child of Thomas G. McMahon, CDGA past president, got under way last year shortly after the Fourth of July and was successful in raising more than \$12,000 for the Chicago Servicemen's Centers. The golfers Dime-A-Round Plan is to have golfers deposit a dime in a receptacle at the first tee before starting each round.

Participating with the private clubs during the 1943 season were the Chicago Park District Courses, the Forest Preserve Courses, the Daily Fee Courses as well as all of the private clubs in the Chicago District. Notable in the collection of funds was the figure turned in by the Chicago Park District of \$4,641.62 under the careful guidance of George T. Donoghue, Park District Supt., and the job by Tom Walsh at Westgate Valley C.C. where more than \$1,000 was raised.

Lowell D. Rutherford, CDGA president, plans a meeting of the heads of the CDGA, PGA of America, Ill. Section PGA, Chicago Park District, Chicago District Daily

Fee Courses, Cook Co. Forest Preserve, Western Golf Assn., Chicago Women's D. G. A., Women's Western G. A. and Illinois State Women's G. A. to organize most of the golf courses in Illinois for participation in this noble war work. Rutherford has appointed Wm. M. Hillborn, Oak Park CC. as the CDGA Dime-A-Round chairman and Hillborn's job, if he accomplishes Rutherford's wish, is to see that \$50,000 is raised during the 1944 golfing season. Hillborn already has sent a letter to CDGA member club presidents, with some facts about the Chicago Servicemen's Centers, to be placed on club bulletin boards.

President Rutherford has written to the various golf associations of the U. S. advising them of the success of the CDGA Dime-A-Round plan and has offered to furnish them with material used for this fund raising campaign. He has predicted that the private clubs in the district will be much more successful than in 1943 through the use of the Honor Roll system which will be pushed in each club through the club's own chairman. Clubs interested in the Dime-A-Round plan for raising funds for war projects in their localities can get complete information by writing the Chicago District G. Assn., La Salle Hotel, Chicago 2, Ill.