

New Era in Greenkeeping Forecast at GSA Meeting

By JOE GRAFFIS

Marshall E. Farnham, supt. of the Philadelphia CC's two 18-hole courses, was elected to head the Greenkeeping Supts. Assn. at the organization's 17th annual turf conference and exhibition, held at Hotel Carter, Cleveland, Jan. 29-Feb. 1. More than 500 greenkeepers, green chairmen and manufacturers from most sections of the country attended the convention which was featured by an intensely practical program of addresses.

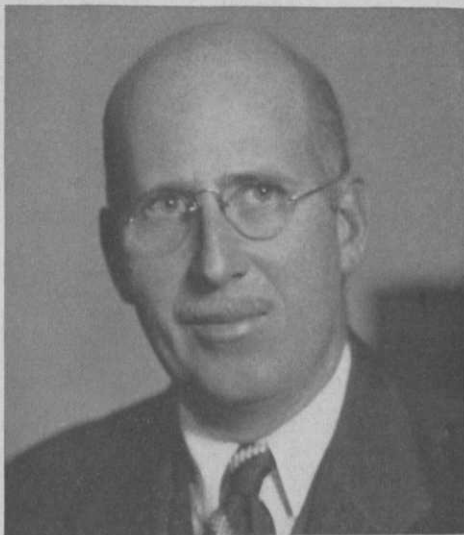
In spite of the handicaps under which manufacturers are trying to meet the huge postwar demand for golf course equipment and supplies, there were 32 exhibits at the show.

Farnham's administration will include John Darrah, Beverly CC, Chicago, as VP; re-elected executive sec. and treas., A. L. Brandon, St. Charles, Ill.; as new directors, Edward J. Casey of Baltusrol CC, Springfield, N. J., Stan Graves of Indianapolis (Ind.) municipal courses, and W. Bruce Matthews of Green Ridge CC, Grand Rapids, Mich.; and as hold-over directors, Chet Mendelhall, of Mission Hills CC, Kansas City, Mo.; J. L. Haines of Denver (Col.) CC and Lawrence Huber of Brookside CC, Columbus, O.

Retiring from the executive board were Pres. Harold Stodola and directors Wm. H. Johnson and T. T. Taylor.

Indication of considerable changes in golf course maintenance were numerous in the convention papers. Extensive mechanization of course operations naturally were headlined as imminent. The paper of T. T. Taylor was devoted entirely to this subject but in many more of the addresses reference was made to substitution of mechanical for manual methods in raising the standards of course maintenance without an accompanying increase in costs.

Along with the accent on mechanics there was emphasis on chemistry's increasing importance in course maintenance, especially in weed and pest control. Papers by Dr. Fred Grau on "New Horizons in Turf" and "The Turf Factor in Weed Control"—and others by Joe Ryan on "Maintenance and Improvement of Existing Turf"; by Dr. Harry L. Keil on "Preview of New Materials for Control of Turf Diseases"; by Dr. George Decker on "Control of Turf Depredating Rodents and Insects"; by Horace Purdy on "The Arsenicals for Curbing Clover and Weeds"; by Dr. Frank S. Filmer on "Sabadilla and DDT Dusts"; by Dr. Paul C. Marth on



MARSHALL E. FARNHAM
Newly elected GSA president.

"New Developments in Weed Control", and by Dr. F. F. Davis on "Two Years' Trial with 2, 4-D"—all pointed to the expanding role for chemicals in course maintenance work.

Other complex scientific phases of the greenkeepers' work were handled by Dr. H. L. Lantz in speaking on "The Prospects for Improved Strains of Turf Grasses." From the successful greenkeepers' viewpoint these highly technical points were applied in such papers as that of Frank Dinelli on "Topdressing and Mat Formation on Putting Greens," and the talk of Harvey Bicknell on "Trees and Shrubs."

The GSA convention papers made it perfectly plain that the present and future requirements in greenkeeping called for a breadth of book, laboratory and applied science demanding an educational program having no counterpart in any other field of sport. Although the greenkeepers in their sectional and national meetings and their close tie-ups with state agricultural colleges have made amazing progress in educating themselves to cope with the problems of improved maintenance standards they are by no means content.

There was strong emphasis on the edu-
(Continued on Page 62)

GSA Annual Meet

(Continued from Page 26)

cational and research phases of greenkeeping, in most of the addresses at Cleveland. Dr. H. B. Musser of Pennsylvania State college advocated drastic revisions and extensions in the greenkeeping educational facilities in his address on "The Short Course as a Training Medium and Source of Technical Information on Turf Problems." Musser referred to numerous inquiries from war veterans who wanted to study course maintenance under the GI Bill of Rights educational provisions. J. E. Morley, regional supervisor of the U. S. Dept. of Labor also spoke on the problem of apprentice training in supplying golf with the good men it needs. The employees' training problem has been one of great perplexity and demands during the war and shows no signs of easing. The certain increase in use of machinery and chemicals in golf course work made especially interesting the convention address of Judge Lee. E. Skeel, pres., Cleveland Safety Council, on "The Safety Factor in Accident Prevention."

This matter of making golf course maintenance work more attractive to desirable young men, as well as retaining the competent experienced men, was mentioned in the USGA Green Section annual report by Fielding Wallace, chmn. of that section, in advising club officials of the situation that was bound to be spotlighted at the GSA affair. Wallace bluntly set forth that golf cant expect to get the sort of course maintenance it needs unless there's a warranted revision in the traditional scale of greenkeepers' salaries.

That realism of the USGA Green Section was further indicated by the close connection of the USGA with two developments that were subjects of GSA papers; "The Regional Cooperative Research Program," by Dr. O. A. Aamodt, head agronomist in charge, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture Research administration, who is head man on the government's end of the government-USGA collaboration; and the ad-

dress by Dr. G. O. Mott, executive sec., Purdue university. Dr. Mott spoke on the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, a very attractive phase of the Green Section's new regional cooperative policy.

One paper scheduled for delivery at the convention was cancelled by the grounding of a plane bringing Dr. James Tyson to Cleveland. Tyson was to speak on "Importance of Water and Air Drainage in Turf Production and Maintenance."

Probably of greatest general interest to golfers would have been the address of Wm. H. Johnson, supt. of Los Angeles' Griffith Park municipal course. Johnson spoke on "Some Trends on Municipal Golf," and in telling of progress and problems in that direction brought out that public course players now expect—and frequently get—course conditions superior to those of the best private clubs a couple of decades ago. The vast and speedy growth of public golf Johnson believes is only in its earlier stages and will be the strongest factor in more than doubling the number of the nation's golfers within the next few years. Other authoritative forecast of the imminent great growth of the game was made in the talk by Howard Dwight Smith, head advisory architect for the American Commission on Living War Memorials.

Papers presented at the educational conference will appear in GOLFDOM, from time to time, and will show the trend of today's growing importance of the turf field.

★ SPALDING MAKES FIRST POST—WAR COAST SHIPMENT—From A. G. Spalding & Bros., Williamsett, Mass., the first postwar full freightcar of golf clubs has been made to the Pacific Coast. Spalding is rapidly increasing club production with prospect of having Bob Jones and Jimmy Thompson woods and irons available nationally in the spring.

Use "The Buyers' Page"—Page 64

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