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## Chicago Planning Green Experimental Station

MID-WEST Greenkeepers' association, the U. S. G. A. Green Section and the green section of the Chicago District Golf association have been working together to establish an experimental green station in the Chicago district with the result that a site near Dam No. 2 of the Cook County Forest Preserve looks due for selection. Charles Evans, Jr., Ransom Kennicott and President Anton Cermak, all representing the Forest Preserve, tendered the site to G. M. Peter, head of the Chicago District Green section and John MacGregor and Edward B. Dearie, Jr., of the Mid-west organization.

Dr. John Montieth of the Green Section also has figured in the preliminary operations. Prospects now are that the Chicago experimental station will be established this year.

## Jake Kohr Is Strong for Rolling

J. G. KOHR, greenkeeper of the South J. Bend (Ind.) Country club, says that of the hundred and one things to do on a golf course in the spring, rolling ranks of high importance. He advises, "Our greens are open the year around and that makes them rough in the spring. We top-dress and roll as early as the weather permits. I roll the greens, tees, fairways, bunkers and rough—in fact everywhere it is grass and can be rolled.

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# Leach Debates Doubter of Arsenate of Lead

**B.** R. LEACH'S series of articles in GOLFDOM on Grub Control have stirred up lively national interest. One of the responses to Mr. Leach's comes to us from an eastern source, under the heading, "Arsenate of Lead—A Cure-All or Kill-All for Greens?"

The one who questions the Leach conclusions writes:

## Doubts Arsenate of Lead

"Someone has recently spoken of arsenate of lead as the nearest thing to a "cure-all" for turf troubles. Early experiments might seem to confirm this statement, but careful analysis, taking all factors into consideration would indicate that in the end it is more apt to prove a "kill-all," and this applies to the turf as well as to the grubs and bugs.

There are several very important reasons why arsenate of lead would be dangerous to use on greens. In the first place the idea of poisoning the soil is fundamentally wrong. We cannot mix poison with our food without a harmful result, and likewise we should not mix a powerful poison with plant food. Arsenate of lead is made from arsenic and lead, and arsenic is known to be the most deadly poison to vegetation. Arsenate of lead is apparently insoluble in water, but the action of the elements, the chemicals in the soil and the chemical added to the soil in the form of fertilizers, will in time break down the arsenate of lead and thus make it soluble and poisonous to the turf. This may be a slow process, but when it does take place, it will do the turf a great deal more harm than good.

Arsenate of lead will do away with grubs, and there is no question about the advisability of killing and permanently eliminating grubs, because they do a great deal of damage and serve no vital purpose in the soil. Unfortunately however, arsenate of lead will also eliminate all other forms of life in the soil, and what is going to happen to the soil if all life in it is done away with permanently? There is only one answer, and that is that the soil itself will become dead. Bacteria, insects and worms

are needed in the soil for very definite purposes.

## Importance of Worms

Consider for a moment the important work that the worms perform in the soil. They are constantly burrowing through the soil in all directions, thus keeping the soil light and aerated so that the vegetation secures nourishment and grows easily. This lightening of the soil by the worms also causes better drainage.

To be sure they may be a nuisance on the greens during certain months when they become too numerous and too active, but they are troublesome only for a few months whereas they are performing a very necessary work the other months. When they become too numerous and troublesome, they can easily be removed by preparations known as worm eradicators, and without injuring the turf or poisoning the soil.

Arsenate of lead on the other hand would not only kill the worms in the green but in fact would permanently eliminate them, for worms could not exist in soil with this poison present. The result would be that without the worms the soil would gradually pack down and become very hard, and would furnish very little nourishment to the turf. Proper drainage would not take place, and the green would soon become very sick. It might take three or four years, before the grass would actually start to die, but the chances are that the use of arsenate of lead would necessitate completely rebuilding the greens within five years.

Can you afford to take such chances with your greens?"

The answer made by Mr. Leach, referring to his extensive experiments with arsenate of lead, follows:

## Leach's Reply

"The above epistle is interesting especially so because it puts in black and white the attitude as regards arsenate of lead in fine turf which I am satisfied exist in the subconscious minds of more than one individual at this time. However the above remarks can be considered only of value as the personal

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opinion of the above writer and not as a proof that arsenate of lead is a "kill-all" in fine turf. He presents no technical data or other substantiation of his stand on arsenate of lead.

I realize that the very thought of adding arsenate of lead to soil outrages all the theories and sacred ideas of the old school who consider such an action only as the violation of all so-called natural laws. I can remember not many years ago when the spraying of fruit and shade trees with arsenate of lead first came into vogue. All the wise men designated it as a "kill-all" and tried to get legislatures to make such spraying illegal. It would kill the trees, and would kill the persons who did the spraying, etc., etc., ad infinitum, but please take note that they are still spraying trees with arsenate of lead and will continue no doubt to do so until a better and easier method is found.

All new methods, inventions and innovations have to undergo this barrage of criticism but if they are sound they emerge unscathed and ultimately become an accepted, taken for granted part of our daily lives. So in the same way, I am entirely satisfied that the use of arsenate of lead in fine turf will be given a thorough trial by turf enthusiasts all over the world, and, if it is as sound a method as my six years of experimental work lead me to believe, it will take its proper place in the accepted system of turf maintenance.

I do not intend to take the space here to refute the argument for arsenate of lead as a "kill-all" because the value of arsenate of lead in fine turf is now under discussion by myself in a series of articles appearing in GOLFDOM. I would however suggest that the gentleman do a little bit of studying in elementary toxicology, plant physiology and the chemistry, physics, and biology of soils. It would certainly help him to form a revision of opinion on the interaction of arsenate of lead, soil and turf grasses.

## Soil Action

The action of soil upon arsenate of lead is not a slow or long delayed process, in fact it begins at once and continues for some time before a chemical equilibrium is set up between the soil

and the arsenate. At the end of this time some of the arsenate of lead has broken down forming basic arsenate of lead which is virtually insoluble in the soil solution and is non-toxic to grubs, worms and vegetation. Soluble arsenate in the form of arsenates or arsenites is also formed, this being toxic to the majority of weeds, to grubs and worms, but non-toxic to the majority of fine turf grasses. The remainder of the arsenate of lead originally added to the soil stays in the soil chemically unchanged for long periods of time, years in fact, and does not influence plant growth one way or the other. It simply acts as a grub or worm poison. Therefore if the grass is to die, or the soil to become barren, as a result of the application of arsenate of lead it should take place within a few weeks and not 5 years later as the gentleman, contends. I have turf at River-ton which has been arsenated for 6 years. It is still in first-class condition.

If arsenate of lead did not break down in soil until 2, 3, or 5 years had passed it would be valueless as a weed control agent because it is the soluble arsenate so formed which acts in this capacity. If arsenate of lead were so stable that it did not break down in soil it would be valueless as a worm and grub poison because it would then be too stable chemically to break down in the stomach of the worm or grub and would fail to liberate the soluble arsenic which poisons.

As far as earthworms are concerned you may have and welcome. I don't want them neither do I want anything else on a golf green which interferes with true and sure putting.

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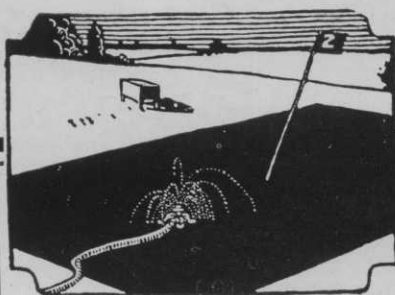
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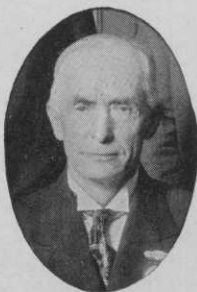
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# Greenkeepers Again Pick Morley at Big Meeting

By HERB GRAFFIS

**J**OHN MORLEY, greenkeeper of the Youngstown (O.) Country Club, was re-elected president of the National Association of Greenkeepers at the conclusion of a highly successful and well attended convention and equipment and supply exhibition held at Detroit, February 21-25. John Quail, Highland Country club, Bellevue, Pa., was elected secretary, and Louis Evans, greenkeeper at the Cedarbrook Country club and president of the Philadelphia Golf Course Superintendent's association, was named treasurer.



John Morley

Buffalo was awarded the next meeting and show, to be held probably in February, 1929.

The ticket as agreed upon represented an astute piece of slate-making on the part of the nominating committee representing greenkeepers from all parts of the country. The boys skillfully steered around the threatening peril of politics and got squared away for continuance of the progress that was impressively evident at the Detroit meeting. That assembly on a constructive basis was doing the greenkeepers' cause good was apparent in the presence of a number of Detroit district green-chairmen and club presidents as speakers and listeners at the annual banquet of the organization. It also was seen in the Associated Press dispatch beginning, "Enter, a new profession—golf club greenkeeper," which was carried in many of the nation's leading newspapers.

## 350 Greenkeepers There

An attendance of approximately 350 greenkeepers from many of the leading clubs east of the Rockies and an array of practical exhibits revealed that the first year of the greenkeepers' association had been resultful.

On the program there was a well-balanced schedule of addresses presented by a number of authorities. As is customary in all conventions, much of the definitely profitable good came from the informal gatherings of the attendants during which intimate comparisons of experiences were made. For an organization in a lusty infancy, the greenkeepers gave promise that emphasis was being placed in ever-growing measure on these conventions, giving the men to attend them a dollar-and-cents return for their presence.

After the usual opening formalities the program was launched into the sea of greenkeeping problems. Digests of a number of these addresses are slated for publication in GOLFDOM, some of them appearing in this issue.

O. J. Noer of the soils department of the University of Wisconsin, and now active in the interests of milorganite, spoke on fertilization. His interesting address was in substance a summary of what he has written on details of proper fertilization in GOLFDOM and presented at the green section meeting at New York in January. Wendell P. Miller gave the convention an outline of correct drainage methods and went into detail regarding most successful handling of drainage problems.

Work on the new course to get desired results should begin in proper selection of the site for fertility, counseled Ed Dearie, Jr., in his talk on "Bringing the New Course Along."

Applicable to new courses as well as to the remodeling of present layouts was the practical address of David Rees, who gave detailed instructions on building new greens, based on his successful practice. One of the other exceedingly specific and helpful papers was that of Hiram F. Godwin, greenkeeper of the Redford (Mich.) Country club, and successful operator of a bent grass nursery, on "Making Use of a Bent Grass Nursery."

C. A. Tregillus, eminent Canadian greenkeeping authority and active head of the Canadian green section, gave the conven-

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tion an international aspect with his presentation of the most effective methods of Canadian greenkeeping. There was another worthwhile address from the Dominion on the subject of clubhouse gardens, by W. D. Chinery of Eglinton, Ont.

One of the feature papers was read by Joe Varn Hagen, Sr., of Plum Hollow in the Detroit district, on the growing of decorative plants from bulbs. There was much practical advice in his paper, which was lightened by his entertaining reference to being misled into the planting of Scotch thistles when he was at Oakmont. Varn Hagen went into detail, he said, so he could explain to Emil Loeffler the origin of a grief to which Emil fell heir.

### Pirie Inspires Them

One of the undercurrents of gossip around the convention concerned the eventual joining of greenkeepers and professionals into one powerful and embracing business golf organization. There were a number of casual references made to the mutuality of greenkeeper and pro interests and to the benefits of harmony and co-operation between the two classes. In this connection it was interesting to observe the reception given the president of the Professional Golfers' association, Alex Pirie. Pirie, in speaking on the "Greenkeeper and His Association," outlined the development of greenkeeping and cited as the prime movers in spurring greenkeeping's recent progress the formation of the Green Section and the work of Piper, Oakley, Carrier and their associates, timed with the last decade's great growth of golf.

He paid tribute to the speed with which the greenkeepers are getting into their problems on a scientific basis, and forecast that this scientific attitude, coupled with the practical foundation already laid, would bring about relief from the heavy burden that the present turf scientists are so helpfully carrying for the greenkeepers. In this connection he mentioned the growing number of college graduates who are going into greenkeeping and are being speeded in their progress by the generosity of the veteran practical experts in liberally advising and yielding the results of their experience to the boys. He impressed upon his hearers that the success of the organization depended upon a continuation and increase of this liberality in exchange of ideas.

Alex gave them a real solid shot of substantial inspiration and showed the boys

that the pro organization wished them the best in their efforts.

A lecture on tree work, illustrated with slides of good and bad examples, was the valuable convention feature presented by C. M. Scherer, principal of the Davey Institute of Tree Surgery. E. W. Doty, treasurer of the Cleveland District Golf association, in speaking on "The Greenkeeper and the Bookkeeper," impressed upon the convention the importance of accurately kept and complete records. Tennis court construction and maintenance was the subject of a helpful address by V. L. Delmarle which was read in his absence by John MacGregor.

One of the headline authorities on greenkeeping, Dr. John Montieth of the Department of Agriculture, held the attention of the convention firmly with an address of marked and scientific value on turf diseases. This address is given in this issue of GOLFDOM.

M. A. Daniels, greenkeeper of the Pontiac (Mich.) Municipal course, presented the results of his experience in controlling ants.

The Friday session concluded with an open forum discussion during which the extermination of pests such as skunks and woodchucks, compost practice and other subjects were discussed extemporaneously. John MacGregor, as pilot of the discussion, did a good job of overcoming the innate reserve of the greenkeepers. This feature gives promise of being a great act on the future programs of the association.

## Lively Party Opens New Ideal Office

ANOTHER one of the Ideal Power Lawn Mower affairs, marking a move into a new branch office, was held at Chicago, February 7, and proved as successful as the first event, which was held when Ideal moved into its new and enlarged Detroit branch. About 70 of the well known greenkeepers, park superintendents and others prominent in turf culture work in the Chicago territory attended the formal opening of Ideal's new branch office and warehouse at 413 West Chicago avenue in the afternoon and were guests of the company at a lively dinner in the evening. The guests wound up the evening by occupying the section Ideal bought out at "A Night in Spain."



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# "Stiffer Spines" Is Slogan of Manager's Convention

**M**ORE backbone was determined to be one of the great needs of club managers working toward the top of their profession, when a representative attendance of country and city club managers met and considered club managerial problems in the second annual convention of the Club Managers' Association of America at Statler Hotel, Detroit, Feb. 22-24.

And the need, as recognized, is not easy of attainment in many cases, because the evil of allowing the manager to carry the burden of too many bosses has made "yes" men of some very stalwart and capable managers who have found that system the surest way out of some bewildering situations. One of the definite achievements of the convention was its plan to get a committee of club presidents and house chairmen to meet at times during the year with a committee of club managers and to let this conclave establish managerial policies on a basis of real business and mutual good for both clubs and managers. No announcement of the committee appointees has been made up to the time this issue of GOLFDOM went to press.

## Cummings New Chief

Col. C. G. Holden, Olympia Fields Country club, gave the country club managers the honor of launching the association last year. This year, the city club managers will be at the helm. As president the organization elected Walter S. Cummings, Detroit A. C.; vice president, Jesse E. Wetzel, Detroit club; treasurer, Charles R. Murphy, Toledo club.

Other officials elected

Joe Palise, 1st v. p.; Thos. B. Jones, 2d v. p.; A. J. Foerster, 3rd v. p.; Leslie MacCurdy, 4th v. p.; Carl L. Schwartz, 5th v. p. Directors elected for three years were Col. C. G. Holden and John L. Keenan.

An interesting practical program of addresses held the stage the afternoon of the opening day. Thos. P. Jones, Harvard club, Boston, discussed "Our Profession"; Flo Leiter McNitt of the Acacia Country club, Chicago, spoke on "Upkeep and Replacement"; Earle G. Lee, manager of the Lake Shore Country club, Chicago, talked

on "Closing the Country Club in Winter—Is It Expensive or Economical?" Charles Scripps of Albert Pick & Co. read the address prepared by his team-mate, J. W. Palmer, on "The Club's Relation to the Manager" as the concluding act on the Wednesday afternoon bill. GOLFDOM is printing excerpts of this and other of the convention addresses.

Two women managers led off the Thursday session. Miss Mable Carter, manager, Women's City club, Chicago, talked on her members carrying their own trays and liking it, and Miss Dora Busch, manager of the University club, Madison, Wis., gave some interesting opinions on the wisdom of clubs advertising.

Charles R. Murphy, manager, Toledo (O.) club, spoke on "100% Membership Cooperation," which is printed in part in this issue. How the president looks at the club manager was revealed by George R. Cooke, president of the Country Club, Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich., who gave his ideas of "Qualifications of a Successful Country Club Manager."

Frank Bellizzi, manager of the Golf and Country club, Des Moines, Ia., gave a lot of valuable inside information on his success with food-control methods.

J. Barker Smith, secretary-manager of the Cleveland Athletic club, who was one of the spotlight speakers at the banquet of the Greenkeepers' association held the following night in Detroit, explained "Why Is a Committee," and F. H. Murray, manager of the Ravisloe Country club, Homewood, Ill., wound up the program with a comparison of the problems of the small country club and the city club.

The Detroit Managers organization took charge of the entertainment of the conventioners and did a great job in steering the visitors after working hours.

**E**ARLY in the year is the time for the manager and the house chairman to be getting together on the entertainment program. There'll be enough work left to the last minute despite all possible planning.