

Let's Join To A Man

Address of CAPTAIN DAVID L. REES

Of Progress Country Club, Purchase, New York, before the January Meeting of the Westchester County, New York, Greenkeepers' Association

VERY early in the history of civilization we find that men banded together for purposes of mutual interest, well being and advancement, and these bodies of men were drawn together by some desire common to all of them, as for example, The Crusaders bound together by the tie of chivalry, The Knights of the Round Table assembled for social intercourse and the conquest of evil, and so on down thru the ages till we find today that every single trade and profession in every country in the world has its own peculiar fraternal organization. Tradesmen's unions are of world-wide scope. Had we greenkeepers been eligible for admission to the ranks of the great labor army it is very certain that we would not so long have remained unorganized. We would have been urged and even obliged to organize and affiliate with larger and more powerful bodies. As it is of course we are professional men and our profession is but in its infancy, therefore we greenkeepers of today find ourselves pioneers in the matter of fraternal organization amongst ourselves.

The question of fraternal societies needs no other advocacy than the proof which history offers us of the success of such bodies. I myself do not know of any single trade or profession that has suffered harm through the fraternal organization of its members; indeed, I know of none that has not been tremendously benefited and elevated. As a living proof of the outstanding success of professional banding together, let us look to what has happened in the case of three of our most learned and respected callings, namely teaching, medicine and law. These professions generations ago had their local fraternal societies, which in time became national organizations and today we find teachers, doctors and lawyers working for nation-wide betterment in their professions, with splendid results. Law indeed has gone further, to witness The International Law Society which now exists and which two years ago held its annual meeting in the U. S. A., last year in London and next year will meet in Paris. Had the original small societies of these great professions not met with abundantly fruitful results, it is very certain that there would never have existed such a thing as an International Society. Talking of internationalization of societies recalls to my mind an extremely interesting evening I spent last year listening over the radio to a meeting of Police Commissioners from all over the wide world. They had met in New York City at the invitation of Police Commissioner Enright to form an International Police Commissioners'

Society, which was to exist with the one supreme object of dealing more effectively with criminals. New York was decided on as a good place to meet in for discussion, because this country has to face the crime problems of every European country,—and by the same token, I would maintain that she also has to tackle the green-keeping problems encountered by all other countries put together, and a whole lot more besides. Speaking in almost every known tongue, these excellent gentlemen, The Police Commissioners, came to the unanimous conclusion that not only the best way but the only really effective way to deal with the crime problem is by unrestricted co-operation and mutual help.

After all we here tonight have one and the same job given us, to maintain a golf course in the best possible condition for the playing of golf, and we all of us find difficulties many of which befall us all at the same time. Experience is of course a very excellent school, but surely it must be admitted that by sharing experience we share the good lessons learned from each experience, and the beneficial results of these lessons are spread over an area, instead of being confined to one spot as they otherwise would be. This sharing of experience is plainly and obviously of immense good to a large number, and therefore to the profession as a whole. Co-operation is the speediest way and the surest of achieving an object for the voice of one man sounds very faint beside the united voices of a body of men. A little story illustrative of the excellent results of co-operation comes to my mind at this point.

One Saturday evening an old Scotchwoman trudged from her little farm in the hills down to the nearest town bearing a large basket heavily laden with eggs which she had contracted to sell to the local grocer. She handed him the basket, he carefully counted the eggs and handed her a sum of money which she took and examined very sorrowfully. "That's verra little, Maister MacTavish" she said. "Ay", he replied, "but the merchants had a meeting and they all agreed not to pay more than fivepence the dozen this summer." The old lady went away but returned as usual next Saturday night with her basket of eggs. As he counted them the grocer with a dissatisfied voice, said, "These eggs are terrible small, Mrs. Mackenzie." "Ay," she answered him, "but the hens had a meeting and they all agreed that they wouldna stretch theirselves for fivepence a dozen."

If we are to concern ourselves tonight with the question of joining the now existing National Association,

I would say that our brothers in Cleveland have merely forestalled us by a year or two. We are at present working for the formation of a Metropolitan Association and that, we had in mind, was to be a stepping stone to a National Organization. If the Cleveland greenkeepers are further ahead than we, I say unhesitatingly, "Good luck to them." I have not the pleasure of personal acquaintance with any member of the Executive Council of the National Association but I have heard of several of them and they do seem to be very admirable gentlemen. They do not of course appear to be a widely representative body, but it will naturally follow that if we men from the east become members we shall then be able to have eastern representation on the Executive body of the National Association. As non-members we are of comparatively little interest to the National Association, but if we join them these fellows make our problems theirs, help us to solve difficulties, help us to fight our battles and give us through the magazine the

benefit of all information and experience at their command. They intend, too, to care for our families if we should drop out by the way. I have been frequently very grateful to different members of the Westchester Greenkeepers Association; they have been my friends both in business life and in a social way. Many of you I would never have had the opportunity of meeting had I not been a member of this Association and I hope to meet still more fellow members as the years go by with whom I can share experiences to the mutual enjoyment and benefit of all of us.

As the National Association exists to day there may be points we do not agree with them about, but let us take the matter up in its broadest sense and let unfavorable details be dealt with as we come to them. Let's vote whole-heartedly for nation-wide co-operation in our profession. We're not going to let an old Scotch egg woman see farther than we do. Let's be broad minded, co-operative in spirit and big hearted. *Let's join to a man!*

Future of Green Section Assured

NEW PLAN OF UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION

ALTHOUGH always fathered by the United States Golf Association, the department of the Green Section was organized as a separate body when it was inaugurated.

At the regular annual meeting held at the Pittsburgh Athletic Club on January 7-8, the new plans for the Green Section were disclosed. By unanimous vote, a resolution read by James Francis Burke, General Counsel for the U. S. G. A., to dissolve the original incorporation of the Green Section and unite this department with the governing golf association was passed.

A large increase in membership in the combined body will be the natural result, as under the new program, every golf club accepted as a member will pay a yearly membership fee of \$30, which fee will include the Green Section service. Few golf clubs will refuse the advantage of such a membership, is the belief of the Executive committee of 1926.

Among those who attended the meeting, it was the consensus of opinion that the United States Golf Association officials have by this act insured the continuance of the work of the Green Section for the golf clubs of this country. Indeed, it seemed to many who had been associated with Dr. C. V. Piper during the years of his unselfish service, that

And we who listened heard a clearly ringing voice again,

"Well done, my friends! You've answered to my call."

Mr. Alex Pirie, president of the National Professional Golfers' Association, in his talk on "Why the Green Section", made an earnest appeal for the Green Section to work in the future more closely in touch with the greenkeepers of the country.

Suggestions were made from the floor for the establishment of experimental stations in various districts. It was thought quite probable that some golf club in each district would co-operate fully by allowing the use of a plot of land to be devoted to an experimental turf garden.

Several pleas were made in the open discussion following the meeting on the 7th to hold Green Section meetings during the playing season, and on golf courses where turf problems may be discussed on the ground. Well organized local associations of greenkeepers follow this practice of meeting regularly once each month at different local clubs, and from these meetings they have derived a great deal of benefit.

Many subjects of interest to greenkeepers were well covered by the speakers on both days of the meeting; those of particular interest will be reported in future issues of this magazine.

A spirit walked in happiness among the men he loved;

His smiling presence filled the meeting hall,