

Bright Future Predicted for Greenkeeping Profession

President Morley, in Opening
Address, Sounds Progressive
Keynote for the National
Association

*Address delivered by President John Morley at
first annual convention, Hotel Sherman, Chicago,
March 26, 1927.*

TIME will not permit me to go into all the details relative to the formation of this new association. The first issue of *THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER* has given you full particulars. But I will state that the corner stone was laid at the beautiful Sylvania Golf Club, Toledo, Ohio, Monday, September 13, 1926. We were honored by having Doctor J. W. Harts-horn, chairman of the Toledo Green Committee, call the meeting to order, with a splendid speech of encouragement and endorsement of the new association.

We have now assembled to dedicate this organization, select its officers for the ensuing year and adopt a Constitution and By-Laws to govern this association.

I hope and trust that God will guide you in your deliberations, and that we will be able to adopt progressive legislation that may be a credit to the welfare of greenkeeping and the golfing fraternity in general. Being human we will undoubtedly make mistakes. But being progressive we will endeavor to correct them.

In bringing this body of greenkeepers together I desire to state that it has not been the work of any one person. We were favored by selecting officers and executive committee from all parts of America, and from golf courses that are nationally known. Their counsel and advice in outlining and directing this temporary organization is evidence to the character and ideals which we will endeavor to obtain.

Founded on Justice

This organization will be founded on justice, faithful brotherhood and generous benevolence, which should teach us human brotherhood and belief in love as the Holy Grail of life, and belief in a friendly handclasp, in cheerful comradeship, and in the love that lights a lamp for those that walk in the dark. Let us believe in clean speech, pure thoughts, high aspirations and the glory of doing our duty, that there is a silvery lining to every cloud, and that good is the center of all things, animate and inanimate. Let us believe in work as the remedy for worthlessness, and that fresh air, exercise and sleep are the best medicine for mind and body.

Let us believe that we are here to do good to others and that we succeed only as we help them to be happy. Let us realize that we journey this way but once, and that it is our duty to pluck rocks out of the paths of others and plant seeds of flowers that may bloom for them after we are gone. That you will endeavor to see the sun rise as often as the sun sets and so live a full and perfect day.



President John Morley

The objects of this association shall be to advance the art and science of greenkeeping to cement the greenkeepers of the United States and Canada into a closer relationship with each other; to collect and disseminate practical knowledge of the problems of greenkeeping with a view to more efficient and economical maintenance of golf courses and to provide direct financial benefits to families of greenkeepers who die or are disabled.

The National Greenkeeper

It is needless to state that this publication which has been ably edited by Mrs. G. A. Farley has proved a valuable instrument in bringing before the greenkeepers of America the aims and objects of this association. But we must remember that if *THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER* is to be kept up to date it must have support not only from subscriptions but it must rely upon information and experiences by correspondence from greenkeepers and their friends.

Employment Bureau

Since this institution was organized I have been amazed at the fact that there have been so many greenkeepers that have been dismissed and often through no fault of their own, and with no other position in sight. We propose to assist those that are worthy in getting new positions.

District Organizations

We should at all times encourage, if possible, district associations and if impossible to do so, to give outlying clubs that cannot be reached by district help all the assistance in our power. There has been brought to my attention that a few districts that are at present well organized desire to be isolated from our association. If all districts were to do this what would become of the many clubs that are situated

over 70 miles away from any district association that now exists?

For illustration I may refer you to one district that has about 14 clubs. These clubs have greenkeepers that are above the average. Their courses are nationally known. They have profited to a certain extent by close communication with one another.

Now draw a circle of from 70 to 100 miles around this district and we find about 20 golf courses scattered in every direction. Most of these courses are in a deplorable condition. There is no opportunity owing to distance and expense to get the advice of these 14 clubs that are organized.

What will eventually become of these greenkeepers unless there is a national body to take care of them and help to give them the assistance needed. One of the principal objects of this association is to take care of and assist all isolated clubs. Let us not forget that the greatest gift a man can make to his God is to be kind to some of His other children.

Outdoor Meetings

A few years ago I was invited to attend a meeting of the Cleveland District Greenkeepers Association, which was held in a small banquet room in one of the leading hotels in the city of Cleveland. After dinner was dispensed with, a general discussion took place pertaining to the general welfare of golf courses. While listening to the various speakers I realized that the best place to discuss golf problems from a greenkeeper's point of view was on a golf course. So I invited them to try it out on my own course, the meeting to take place the first Monday in May, which invitation was accepted. But it happened that the day of our first trial meeting we were greeted with a cold drizzling rain.

However, we had an attendance of 40. The following season we worked the outdoor meeting on a larger scale by having manufacturers of golf course machinery exhibit their equipment, etc. This meeting brought together about 75. The season just past we branched out further. This time we invited the Toledo and Pittsburgh districts to join with the Cleveland district at the Youngstown Country Club, the birthplace of this movement. This brought an attendance of 175, which included chairmen of green committees, professionals and greenkeepers.

The morning session brought these three bodies together and after listening to several addresses pertaining to golf course maintenance we were able to mingle together with a dinner served especially for this occasion. After dinner a tournament with appropriate prizes was held for those who desired to examine the course from a player's standpoint.

The balance interested themselves in examining the various equipment that was on exhibition from manufacturers, besides studying the various grasses on the course and nursery. Eighty per cent of those who attended this meeting resided from 70 to 200 miles from Youngstown.

Turf Nursery

Every greenkeeper for his own benefit and observation should maintain a turf nursery of not less than $\frac{1}{8}$ acre of land, for the purpose of experimenting along scientific lines, also to have on hand suitable turf to replace any that may have been destroyed.

Greenkeepers Should Learn to Write Their Experiences

Another item of importance in order to train the minds of greenkeepers and to teach them to express their observations and experiences is to induce them to write essays on greenkeeping. In order to induce them to do so, each session there should be given three suitable prizes, first, second and third for the best essay. And the three best essays should be published in THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER. The information which they will contain will prove very useful to the younger generation of greenkeepers and some of the older ones.

In Union There Is Strength

If the United States Golf Association desires 100 per cent of efficiency and good will from the four units comprising chairmen of green committees, club managers, professionals and greenkeepers, it should endorse and encourage these four units to hold their conventions at the same time and place that the U. S. G. A. meetings are held.

These four units could hold a two days' session; the first three sessions to be held separately; and the last session to be held jointly, and presided over by the president of the U. S. G. A. This method should bring all these factors into a closer communication with one another, and I am of the opinion that if these ideas were adopted the only objection that might be raised would be that we may not be able to secure a hall large enough for such a gathering.

In Conclusion

Occasions like this are seldom soon forgotten; new acquaintances are formed and old ones renewed. Friendships are made, lasting and eternal. In the busy cares and anxieties of your lives many things may occur to engage your attention, but it matters little how deftly time may trail the

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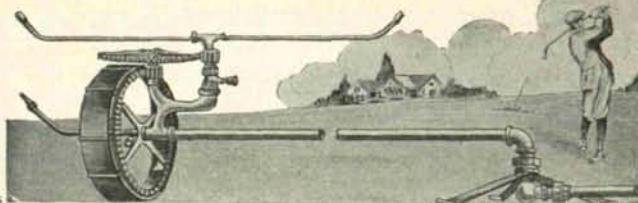
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President Morley's Address

(Continued on page 12)

flowers of forgetfulness over the past, over the places where you have spent many happy hours, often memory's fingers coming unbidden will lift the tender blades from their sweetly scented roots and show you through their dewy rifts many happy scenes. And often when the twilight casts its shadowy curtain around the dying day hiding from our view the last warm flushes of the sunset, there will come to you borne on the evening breezes of the past, strains of music soft and sweet, the melody of which will make glad harmony in your ears.

May your efforts today be such that the results will meet with the approval of the greenkeepers of America and the golfing fraternity in general.

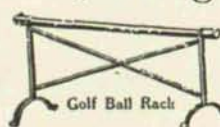
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