

The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

Official Organ of The National Association of Greenkeepers of America

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VOLUME I.

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An Editorial

This month we are introducing to you one of our greenkeepers, L. J. Feser, of the Woodhill Country Club, Wayzata, Minnesota, who has written an editorial worthy of the first page in the official greenkeepers' magazine. We are glad indeed to turn it over to him, and congratulate our readers on having such a man as Mr. Feser in the greenkeeping profession.—The Editor.

I HAVE read the last four issues of the GREENKEEPER with great interest, and believe that a membership in the Association is as essential to the 1927 greenkeeper as the mower, barrow, shovel or rake suggestively pictured on the cover page of the magazine.

After five years of greenkeeping, all of which provided many hopes, despairs, successes, failures, dreams, realities, droughts and floods, I sometimes wonder at the confidence I had five years ago. When I took charge of Woodhill greens, I thought that greenkeeping was a matter of sending a number of men to specific jobs every morning, and making daily tours of inspection of the course to see that the work was being carried on properly. The confidence I possessed at that time in my ability to direct the work was, from my present point of view, humorously pathetic.

Now I look up to the progressive type of greenkeeper who has had ten, twenty or twenty-five years of experience. I find that those men are constantly seeking information, constantly puzzling their brains over old and new problems, and ever ready to give the vintage of their years of experience to those that are willing to read or listen.

Not that I believe that the older a man, the better greenkeeper he is. The profession is advancing rapidly along the road marked well by science; and the old man who disregards the markings cannot progress. But the old-time greenkeeper with years of experience in hopes,

failures and successes to help him along the science-marked trail, is the man I believe in. It is that man that I look to for instruction. It is his failures and successes that I wish to use in working out my problems.

The pages of the GREENKEEPER are open to that type of man as well as the younger, more ambitious type, who will find that writing an article for a paper is much easier than it seems to be. I am as anxious to learn of a failure of a much-used method as I am to see new methods advocated. How many readers of the GREENKEEPER would be interested in reading of a failure that was costly to the Club? Perhaps some of us are working on a method now which was found to be a failure by some fellowman working under like conditions. It is said that newspaper men are the only ones who publish their mistakes, and that is a possible reason why the newspapers are the poor men's college.

Sometime in the future when I feel in a mood of confession, I am going to send a beautiful list of failures for publication in the GREENKEEPER. But I am going to be sure that along with the failure list a success list will be attached. For I sincerely feel that during the past five years the golfing condition at Woodhill has been bettered, and the fact that the Chairman of the Green, who at Woodhill has been the same man the past ten years, thank goodness, expects me to continue, seems to strengthen my conviction.

Here is top-luck to the N. A. G. A.!