



Around the Office Desk

THE OFFICE DESK visited the Youngstown Country Club on Sunday, October 16, and noticed here and there piles of screened compost of quite ample proportions. Upon inquiry, Mr. Morley said, "I believe in letting the sun, rain, snow, and the freezing and thawing of winter and early spring work their will on compost I am going to spread the following year. I do not keep it under cover as is usually done after screening, for I find that the texture of the compost is much improved by piling it outside in the fall."

NUMBER 17 *Poa annua* green at Youngstown Country Club shows a putting surface at this time of the year that is absolutely devoid of weeds or the smallest bare spots. The frost has slightly browned some of the seeded bent on other greens, but the *Poa annua* is thick and a vigorous green, some of it blossoming to seed again.

"I HAVE known for some time that the Association is a real live wire," writes W. D. Chinery in a letter attached to his article in this number on Clubhouse Gardens, "and while I do not wish to monopolize the pages of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, if you would like to have them I will write a series of articles on shrubs, biennials, perennials, the naturalization of bulbs in turf, etc." That's what we call co-operation with a capital C. Especially so when the writer is thoroughly conversant with the art of gardening and plant propagation, as is our good friend and member, Mr. Chinery. A word of appreciation from those of our readers who have been hoping to read such articles should be sent direct to Mr. W. D. Chinery, York Downs Golf Club, Eglinton, Ontario.

FROM one of our Charter advertisers, the Toro Manufacturing Company of Minneapolis, we have received the good word, "Your magazine is getting better all the time, and in providing a medium of expression to greenkeepers far and wide, it has accomplished a great deal. The manufacture of golf course equipment is getting steadier than it was due to the educational work you and others are doing."

UP in Wayzata, Minnesota, L. J. Feser, greenkeeper at Woodhill Country Club, has been keeping track of the splendid work Charles Erickson of Minekahda Club, Minneapolis, has done this season. He writes, "Mr. Erickson deserves the credit given him in a front page article in the Minneapolis Morning Tribune, because of the unusually fine carpet of turf all over the Minekahda course. The boys up around here were invited to visit Minekahda on August 12, and were treated to a view of one of the most beautiful courses we have ever seen. You will agree, I am sure, that the veteran has earned his stripes."

REVERIE OF A BACHELOR

I'm fifty past and still unwed;
I'm master of myself;
Too well and strong and hearty
To be laid upon the shelf.

Today I paid my last respects
To my old schoolmate Jim;
A fuse so short there wasn't much
That they could find of him.

Now Bill, they found him in the woods
And laid him right away,
When his old shot-gun, tried and true,
Kicked up on him one day.

And Johnny Wise, they picked him off
A wire, someone said;
Three thousand volts was quite enough,
He was already dead.

Electric wires, guns and such,
And sticks of dynamite,
I've left alone, and maybe that's
Why I am here tonight.

And that is why I'm single, too,
Have kept my heart and hand,
Because I never tamper with
What I don't understand.

By Gertrude A. Farley

In the Tribune we read, "Its greens are snug, velvety and as soft to the touch as an Oriental rug; its fairways are beautiful sweeps of lush green; its roughs are just as they should be, and the bunkers are carefully sanded and furrowed."

With twenty-seven years of experience behind him, and his accomplishments in turf culture an established fact, Mr. Erickson is not among those greenkeepers who are regarded by the members as "just one of the men who take care of our greens." He is as well known a figure among the members of Minekahda as the president of the club. Besides being an expert keeper of

the green, Mr. Erickson is one of the most active and enthusiastic supporters of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America.

CANADIAN greenkeepers are fully awake to the advantages of belonging to our association, and during the past few weeks we have been receiving most cordial letters from many of them. Mr. H. J. Walker, of the Beach Grove Golf and Country Club, Tecumseh, Ontario, writes, "I think the association will lead to a better understanding between greenkeepers and their employers, as well as a means to broadcast help and friendship to greenkeepers, wherever they may be."

INTEREST in the coming annual convention in Detroit on February 23, 24 and 25, is already active, and letters from our members in California, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Georgia, the Chicago district, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New York, Buffalo, Cleveland and Detroit, as well as from various sections of Canada, state that plans are being made to attend. While the attendance in Chicago last March was excellent, we believe that we can look forward to seeing several hundred at the second annual meeting.

"YOUR October number of the GREENKEEPER was splendid," comes from Mr. Fred W. Sherwood of the Northmoor Country Club, Ravinia, Ill. "I am looking forward to an increasing interest in our magazine."

IN answer to a letter of inquiry about the Death Benefit and Beneficiary funds, we are printing one paragraph from our reply, for the attention of any member or prospective member who does not understand perfectly just what these funds were established for, and how they are handled by the association:

The Death Benefit is for death only, and immediately payable to the beneficiary designated. In cases of sickness, accident, lack of employment, to which any member may be subjected, we have what we call a Beneficiary Fund. This is entirely separated from the Death Benefit, and represents \$2 taken out of each member's \$10 yearly dues each year and banked in the name of this special fund. Upon application for help made by a needy member, a committee of three greenkeepers is appointed from that man's own district, whose duty it is to investigate the case and recommend the amount to be paid monthly and for how long. So far we have had no calls upon this Beneficiary Fund, and we hope it will grow to such ample proportions that all of our members

will be well protected. This is dependent upon the number of members that increase our membership from year to year.

WILLIAM B. STEWART, greenkeeper at Hillcrest Country Club, Los Angeles, California, and one of the first contributors to our magazine, says, "I am heartily in favor and support of the National Association, and was one of the first to become a Charter member. The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER is an able magazine, and I wish to congratulate you. It is the only publication I know of that gives both golf courses and greenkeepers their just dues."

ONE of the greatest fields of endeavor that lies before our association is the distribution of good practical information to younger greenkeepers. At least twenty-five per cent of the letters received at association headquarters come from these young men, expressing their delight in having a magazine like the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER to read, and an association headed by experienced greenkeepers to help them out. The sermon of brotherly love has been preached in this magazine since last January, and it is getting to be a common occurrence to hear of one greenkeeper going out of his way to lend a helping hand to another. Mr. H. E. Erickson, keeping a nine-hole course south of Galion, Ohio, is one of the younger generation who has just applied for membership. He writes that G. J. Merritt, our member in charge of the course of the Highland Meadows Club in Toledo, has been loaning him copies of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER and visiting him this season. "I have been getting some good stuff from the magazine, and as I am building a new course it has been a wonderful help. The whole town is now all golf, and our greens are coming along fine."

ALL local associations of greenkeepers are in league to broaden the education of each individual member, and the strides made this season by local groups from the Eastern coast to the Pacific have been something to arrest the attention of everybody concerned with golf.

Delegates from these local associations will find plenty to interest them in the program which is now being arranged for February 23 and 24 at Annual Convention Headquarters, Fort Shelby Hotel, Detroit. The Executive committee of the National Association is busy outlining an educational program for these two opening days, which will be reported in the December number of our magazine. Watch for it!