

The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

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All In All—A Gala Week

Second annual Greenkeepers' Convention and Golf Show in Detroit was greatest gathering of golf experts ever held. Over 350 greenkeepers in attendance

By ROBERT E. POWER

Editor of The National Greenkeeper

Sketches by C. P. McCartney, Staff Artist of Cleveland

STANDING out conspicuously as the greatest gathering of golf experts ever held, the second annual convention of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America, at Hotel Fort Shelby, February 21-25 was a marked success. The list of papers read and discussed was representative of every branch of greenkeeping and golf course maintenance. Never before has such a complete program been arranged for and carried out by any golf association. About 350 greenkeepers were present throughout the week and the big auditorium of the Hotel Fort Shelby was crowded continuously during the convention sessions on Thursday and Friday.

John Morley was re-elected president at the business and elective meeting held on Saturday morning despite his expressed desire that he be permitted to retire. It was the unanimous opinion, however of the members of the greenkeepers' association that it needed his guiding hand for another twelve months, and he was assured the heartiest support and co-operation. Mr. Morley was particularly pleased that his two able and loyal vice presidents, John McNamara of Pittsburgh and John MacGregor of Chicago were unanimously elected to serve with him another year.

Due to illness of the past incumbents, a change was made in the offices of secretary and treasurer. After carefully considering all the possible candidates the committee on permanent organization recommended John Quail of the Highland Club, Pittsburgh, secretary, and

Lewis M. Evans of the Cedarbrook Country Club, Philadelphia, treasurer. Both are accustomed to association work—Quail being secretary of the Greenkeepers' Association of Western Pennsylvania, while Evans is president of the Association of Golf Course Superintendents of the Philadelphia district. The vote of the members was unanimous and enthusiastic for these new officers and everybody believes the choice a wise one.

Among other things decided at the meeting was the selection of Buffalo for the next annual convention in February, 1929, subject to investigation and approval of the Executive committee. This committee is as follows: John Morley, president; John McNamara, first vice president; John MacGregor, second vice president; John Quail, secretary; Lewis M. Evans, treasurer.

The Golf Show, an innovation this year and a very successful one, opened

promptly on Tuesday noon with twenty-seven exhibits in place in the Spanish room just below decks at the end of the main lobby. How complete and interesting this show was to the greenkeepers, chairmen and others who attended you will find described elsewhere in this issue. The fact that the greenkeepers ran this show themselves and that it netted them approximately \$2000 for their treasury over and above expenses, was one of the outstanding features of the week. The exhibitors themselves were tremendously pleased because the space cost them less than half what other shows charge and



HERBERT E. SHAVE



R.H. MONTGOMERY

The men who made Detroit famous

they say they did over twice as much business.

Great credit is due the Entertainment committee of Detroit greenkeepers consisting of Herbert Shave, Willie Smith and John Gray for the wonderful banquet and entertainment they put on Friday evening and to which over 200 greenkeepers and their wives, besides prominent golfers were present. To look in on this glorious affair one would hardly believe that the National association is only a year old and has much to learn in running affairs of this sort. But the success of it showed the untiring efforts of the committee members ably assisted by Mr. R. H. Montgomery, Chairman of the Detroit District Green Section who lent his valuable aid all week in making the convention a success.

Another striking feature which stamps Detroit as an ideal convention city was the publicity concerning the activities of the greenkeepers' convention which appeared in the daily press. The golf editors of the various newspapers sat in at all the sessions and wrote extensive and intelligent stories which were given prominent display on the Sport pages. Reports from far distant cities have been received indicating that news of the convention were printed there which shows the activity and co-operation of the United Press and Associated Press carrying editorial material over their wires.

All in all it was a gala week—a milestone in the betterment of the profession of greenkeeping and a landmark for more efficient and economical operation of golf courses which will endure forever.

John Morley's Annual Address

WE have now reached another milestone along the highway of life. Another year has passed with its joy and gladness, its sorrow and its cares. The blessings that have been bestowed upon this organization during 1927 are plainly indicated in this, our first annual report.

We have made a remarkable gain in membership, reaching into every state in the Union, and every province in Canada where the game of golf exists. Our gain in Eastern membership is not so large as we would like to have it, but I believe this is largely due to the fact that owing to our limited finances we have been unable to visit the northeast coast districts and explain to them the aims, objects and requirements of our association.

During the year just past, we have held two Executive committee meetings, one in the spring at Detroit, and one in the fall at Pittsburgh. At the Detroit meeting Mr. John MacGregor presented a motion that we hold a Golf Show in conjunction with our annual meeting, which was unanimously adopted. It was also suggested that we invite the National Professional Golfers Association and the National Association of Club Managers to co-operate with us in staging such an exhibition. For reasons we do not know these two organizations did not join forces with us, and we therefore made arrangements to carry on the exhibition alone.

Golf Show A Success

THE complicated duties involved in putting on a golf maintenance exhibition of equipment and supplies were ably managed by Mr. Robert E. Power, chairman of the Green Section of the Cleveland district, and Mr. Fred A. Burkhardt, of Cleveland, who was appointed chairman of our Show committee. It is through their efforts that this exhibition has been a success. I feel that our members should know that the golf show orig-

inated with us, and should know the names of those whom we have to thank for its success.

If our show has proved valuable along educational lines, and shows satisfactory financial returns to the association, we should endeavor to hold another in conjunction with our next annual meeting. It has been suggested that New York City or Atlantic City be chosen for our next convention. While either of the two cities mentioned would be ideal for the purpose, I am under the impression that unless we have the united support of the New England states and the Metropolitan district, we should not hold any annual meeting too far away from the bulk of our membership.

Bain Appointed Ass't Treasurer

ANOTHER item of importance evolved at the Detroit meeting of the Executive committee was to eliminate as far as possible the full financial responsibilities of our assistant secretary, and therefore Mr. Christopher Bain, of Oakwood Country Club, Cleveland, was appointed assistant to the treasurer. Mr. Bain's twelve years' banking experience admirably qualifies him for these duties. Now with our Finance committee headed by Emil Loeffler of Oakmont Country Club, Pittsburgh, working in conjunction with our assistant secretary and Mr. Bain, it is not necessary to state that our books and finances are conducted along sane business methods.

Qualifications of Members

DURING the latter part of my term of office, it was suggested that some provision should be made to allow the membership of young greenkeepers, those who have not held positions as greenkeepers for the required three years. It has been suggested that we institute a "probation" or "associate" membership, giving us two classes of membership, A and B, Class B