

DR. C. V. PIPER

*"In storm and in sunshine
he was the greenkeepers' friend."*

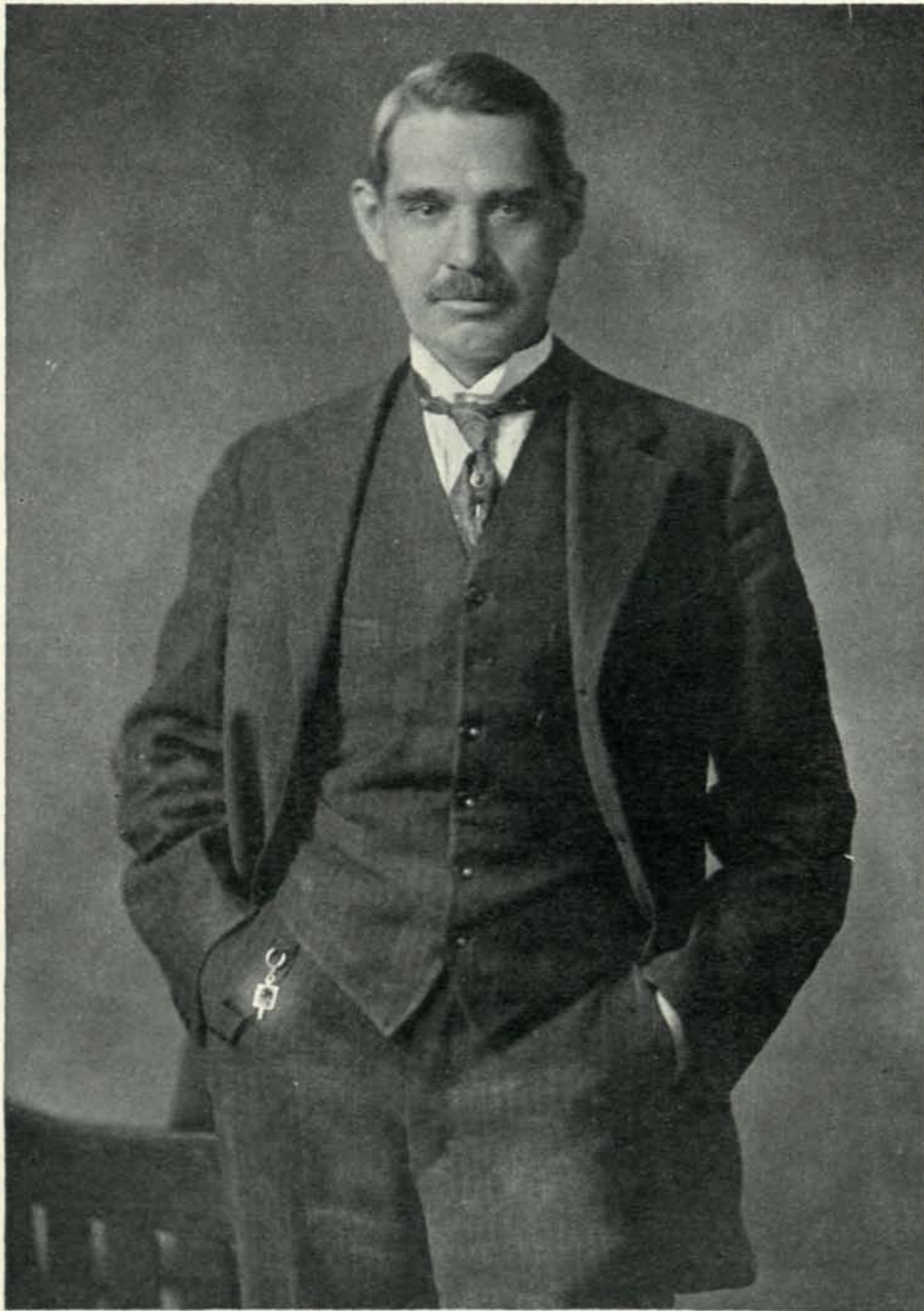


Photo by Harris and Ewing, Washington, D. C.

An Anniversary Tribute to Dr. Piper

This hitherto unpublished memorial was written at the time of the death of this country's most famous turf expert

By JOHN MORLEY

FEBRUARY 11th, 1926, a shadow cloaked from head to foot fell across the threshold of many golf courses when the pulsing wires flashed the sad tidings that Doctor C. V. Piper was dead.

While we recognize the wisdom of the Supreme Power who moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform, yet we cannot help feeling that the death of Doctor Piper was indeed a mournful visitation. In his death we lost a gallant friend. He loved those who love God best. Indeed it may be said of him that his love of God and his love of man were alike.

He always fought for truth and justice. In his veins the stream of life coursed full warm and red. Fear of criticism never sealed his lips. He denounced wrong and always applauded good. He was the friend of all whom he knew to be honest. He was sincere as sunlight. The greatest thoughts in his mind were devoted to the interest of others.

The shock to us was sudden and unexpected. Surely this great king of terror, this grim reaper, loves a shining mark. To express our grief and sorrow words are unavailing. Nor does the reflection that as he fell asleep here and awoke in the glory of that light that never was on sea or land, wholly relieve our sense of pain and loss.

As the lark at daybreak rising on the wings of the morning turns its glad song to the listening sky; as the fainting traveler casting himself beside the roadside spring turns his parched and burning lips in joy to its cooling water, so turned the heart of the greenkeeper to Doctor Piper. In storm and in sunshine he was the greenkeepers' friend. There was malice toward none;

there was kindness and courage for all in the right, as God gave him to see the right. In the pure gold of his heart there was no dross. In him there was strength without weakness.

Doctor Piper knew himself and knew his fellowmen. He knew the world was more good than bad and growing better every day. He knew that there was less vice than virtue, less selfishness than charity, more love than hate. He knew that he who loveth most is most beloved. This virtue we call love is the greatest thing in the world. Without it life were not worth living; without it death would close the chapter of our hope. Love is the key to immortality. It is the last stronghold of our faith.

We pray that time may pour its healing ointment into the wound so freshly made, and that years may bring with them the consolation we should find in dwelling on the memory of one we loved.

Let us then dedicate the memory of Doctor Piper to the Supreme Being and by this we should be reminded that we should dedicate our spiritual actions to the same Supreme Being. Although we know that in the process of

time even at the best, our magnificent structure will crumble and decay, let us take care that we so labor here that after we leave for that far distant country from whence we will never return, we may there receive the reward of a well spent life.

*Green be the sod above thee,
Friend of our better days;
None knew thee but to love thee,
None named thee but to praise.*

Fifty-nine years of life was a short span to be allowed so well-loved a man as Dr. Charles Vancouver Piper. His was a forceful, distinctive character, quick to see the right and diligent in correcting a wrong.

His achievements were many, among them the discovery of Sudan grass, a forage crop which has since added millions of dollars to the wealth of agricultural America.

His interest in the improvement of turf led to the establishment of the Green Section of the United States Golf Association in 1921, of which he was Chairman until his death. His unusual knowledge, strength of purpose and high intelligence compelled the admiration of the entire golf world, and his love for his fellowmen embraced those in every walk of life.

Few men have lived so usefully, so richly endowed in friendship, and so tenderly held in the memory of all who knew him.

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