


# Around the Office Desk



WE have just read over that paragraph in the By-laws of the National Association denoting the three objects under which the association was formed. Briefly, to cement the greenkeepers of the United States and Canada into a closer relationship; to collect and disseminate knowledge relating to greenkeeping, and to provide direct financial benefit to the members.

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As we enter the New Year, with a glance backward over the path we have followed during 1927, we are inclined to agree with President John Morley, who recently said, "We've made a fine start."

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Momentum gathers swiftly from a good start. Let no member forget the strength of purpose vested in the organizers of the National Association who lifted their wagon out of the rut and started it rolling on its way.

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KNOWLEDGE is respected wherever it is found. Particularly is this true in the attitude toward the National Association which golf club officials are showing. More and more often we hear from chairmen of Green committees and officers of clubs and golf associations, expressing their appreciation of the information they read in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER. The names of contributors are often mentioned in a complimentary way.

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SPEAKING of contributing to the magazine, greenkeepers who are not in the habit of writing their experiences should take notes of what they do and how they do it, and mail these notes in to the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER in whatever form they may appear. No player breaks par in his first game of golf. Good golf is the result of practice. Many a poor story is torn up before a good one is written. If any member finds it difficult to write his experiences as he would like to read them in the magazine, he should send in a series of notes giving all detail possible, and let the editor of the GREENKEEPER do the rest.

Don't get discouraged and withhold good information

to brother members because writing for magazines is out of your line. Send pictures whenever possible, but send information in any form you happen to write it. Next spring and summer you will be too busy, so let us have some notes this winter while you have time to set down what you have done this past year.

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THE GOLF SHOW is attracting the attention of manufacturers and dealers in the golf course field, and many inquiries have been received. A partial list of exhibitors will be found on page 18, and as space is considerably more limited than inquiries, a full list may appear in the February number.

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MEMBERS will be glad to hear that Mr. H. L. Westover of the U. S. Green Section writes that it may be possible for him to attend and address the annual convention at Detroit. His many good friends among the officers and members of the association will welcome his presence.

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REQUESTS for O. J. Noer's book on the ABC of Turf Culture are being received every day, and as the edition will be somewhat limited, members who wish to have a copy are urged to send in an application without delay.

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ONE of the most valuable series which will be printed in the 1928 issues is that written by Lyman Carrier, agronomist, formerly connected with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the U. S. Green Section. Mr. Carrier is contributing a monograph on golf grasses, containing his findings of many years' experiments in golf turf. Mr. Carrier was the originator of stolon-planted bent in this country, and his experience has been practical as well as scientific. Don't miss any of these grass chapters.

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W. D. CHINERY'S contribution on the planting, grouping and pruning of shrubbery in this issue, is "worth a year's subscription to the magazine," as one of our Cleveland members expressed it after reading some excerpts from the first proof. Read it and you will agree with him.

## A DEFINITION

J ust  
O bliging  
H onest  
N atural

M odest  
O bservant  
R esolute  
Loyal  
E fficient  
Y outhful



## IN MEMORIAM

EVERY man for whom the game of golf holds interest has lost a good friend in the recent death of Charles O. Pfeil, nominee for the presidency of the United States Golf Association.

His ability and genial personality won for him an unusually rapid rise as a golf executive. He was vice-president of the Western Golf Association in 1921 and 1922, and then president of this organization for three years. In 1923 he was made a member of the Executive committee of the United States Golf Association, and in 1926 was elected first vice-president.

Born on an Illinois farm, he entered the Kansas Agricultural College with the intention of following agricultural work, but later he attended the Illinois School of Architecture, and became a gifted member of that profession.

His natural leaning toward the problems of the soil gave him an understanding and appreciation of the work of the greenkeeper. This is exemplified in a letter he wrote Mr. John Morley after the Western Open was held at the Youngstown Country Club in August, 1925, from which we quote as follows:

"I feel that I would not be doing my duty fully without expressing to you personally the thanks of the Western Golf Association, for preparing and giving them the best conditioned golf course upon which we have ever held a tournament. It is a great pity more clubs cannot have the benefit of a man who is so extremely interested in the development of grasses and conditioning of golf courses as the Youngstown Golf & Country Club has in you. I have never in my experience seen eighteen more wonderful and uniform putting greens than you have at your Club.

"You were very nice to us while there, and did everything possible in your power to assist in making the tournament the success it was."

A NEW writer will be introduced to our readers in the February issue. This contribution will also be a series, and on a subject always of interest to the greenkeeper, grass seeds and all about them. This will be the most valuable series on this important subject ever published in a golf magazine. Watch for it.

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SOUTHERN greenkeepers should read G. H. Conger's story of how he maintains Bermuda on his course at Ardmore, Oklahoma. This will be followed by a very fine article in the February issue on the same subject and written by Chester Mendenhall of Wichita, Kansas.

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JAMES LIVINGSTONE, one of our Charter members at the Ingleside Country Club, Avondale Estates, Georgia, believes that if Chester Mendenhall can grow bent out in southern Kansas, he should be able to grow it down in Georgia. Mr. Livingstone is starting experiments with stolon-planted bent this fall, and will send in a report of the results next spring, followed by another the following fall. It might be a good idea for greenkeepers in the South who wish to try a plot of bent to write Gustave Hansen at Greenville Country Club,

Greenville, Michigan, who says, "My strain of bent thrives in hot weather."

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WE received an application for a greenkeeper a few days ago, stating, "We don't expect an Oakley or a Morley, but we do want a man who knows greens." We sent them a man who has improved every course he has had charge of in the last fifteen years, so he must know a good deal about greens.

## GREENKEEPER'S ALMANAC

JANUARY

By JOHN MACGREGOR  
Chicago Golf Club

OVERHAULING machinery is the main event of the month's work. This year the indoor work is not so far advanced as usual, owing to the unusual good weather.

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In overhauling the tractor, the motor should be taken apart, carbon cleaned out, valves ground, new piston rings put in if the compression is weak, and bearings taken up. This usually has to be done every year. The main bearings very seldom have to be touched, but if this is necessary be sure that you knew how this is done before you tackle the job.

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Mowers must be taken apart, thoroughly cleaned and parts replaced where necessary.

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When the weather is favorable the trees demand attention, dead wood and suckers removed. In doing so, be careful to cut close to the trunk, so that there is no chance of decay starting, and eventually proving ruinous to the tree. Always paint over the cut when a branch has been removed. This will seal the wound.

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Keep an eye open for pockets on the greens where water is liable to accumulate, and freeze out this area. Break the ice every day to let the air in to the grass. Ice should not be allowed to remain on a green over a week, without an effort being made to break it.

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Winter sports are coming into vogue at many clubs. Toboggan slides, ice skating, hockey, trap shooting, etc., which keep a greenkeeper busy, especially on week ends.

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Don't forget our friends, the birds! They must be fed throughout the cold months. Keep a hundred pounds of scratch feed on hand, also a few pounds of suet.