

Midwest Greenkeepers Meet

By EDWARD B. DEARIE, Jr.

DEMONSTRATION Day of golf course equipment was the first topic of discussion at the monthly meeting of the Mid-West Greenkeeper's Association held April 4, at the Great Northern hotel, Chicago. The meeting was preceded by a very enjoyable dinner after which the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Fred Sherwood, Ed Laing and Alex Pirie, the committee appointed to make arrangements, recommended that the event be held during the second week in June at Sunset Valley Country Club, Highland Park.

Initiation dues of new members was then brought up by Alex Binnie and the meeting went on record in favor of them.

The Experimental Station in the Chicago District was reported upon by John MacGregor and Edward B. Dearie, Jr., its investigating committee. They asserted that Mr. G. M. Peters, chairman of the Chicago District Green Section, had told them early in the day that the preliminary arrangements for the enterprise were about settled and that it would be conducted by a committee of the U. S. G. A., C. D. Green Section and Mid-West Greenkeepers' Association.

MacGregor on Board of Control

By vote of the meeting President John MacGregor was selected to represent the Mid-West Greenkeepers' Association on the board of control of the experimental station. It was decided that succeeding presidents of the organization should be likewise honored.

The meeting place for the next greenkeepers' convention of the U. S. Green Section was then debated. Members voiced the opinion that it should be held at Atlantic City because inland greenkeepers, attending the convention, would thus be given an opportunity to observe sea side courses. It was believed the delegates would find this fact of interest and the secretary was requested to advise the U. S. Green Section of the recommendation.

A suggestion by the Demonstration Day committee that all Green committee chairmen in the local district be invited to attend was approved as was also the suggestion that all equipment houses be requested to exhibit.



*John MacGregor
Recently appointed a
member of the Board of
Control of the Mid-West
Experimental Station*

Decision was made by vote to ask Mr. Joe Davis, secretary of the Chicago District Green Section, to notify the former.

The first outdoor meeting of the season, according to the decision reached, will be held at Beverly Country Club.

Pirie Makes Stirring Speech

The speech of the evening was made by Alex Pirie of Old Elm Country Club who spoke about "The Future Greenkeeper." He gave some timely hints and expressed his opinion that the greenkeeper should be a man well educated in greenkeeping and well qualified to explain his actions and opinions to his chairman and board of directors. He added that the greenkeeper of the future should be enough of an executive to be able to handle a seventy-two hole course with the ease which characterizes greenkeeping on the present eighteen hole course. He emphasized the fact that he should know where the money goes which is charged to the golf course and why. He recommended the keeping of cost records, including those of labor and material, so that at the end of the year the greenkeeper might be able to make a comprehensive analysis. He asserted that no board of directors in the future would consider proposed changes in course operation without consulting with the greenkeeper.

The greenkeeper of the future, according to Mr. Pirie, should be a profound student of nature in order to pass judgment on any given subject pertaining to course maintenance. He must know solid types and be familiar with characteristics of grasses. In other words, he must know his turf.

Personality is an asset to be cultivated in the opinion of Mr. Pirie who asserted that the most successful greenkeepers are those whose cordiality invited members of the club to discuss subjects of interest.

Because of the responsibility attached to the position, the greenkeeper of the future must have first class qualifications backed by considerable experience and able to formulate and follow a workable plan for efficient and economical operation. Mr. Pirie added that the man who did not measure up to these strict requirements would soon "pass on."

"Greenkeeping has gone beyond the conception of the greenkeeper himself," concluded Mr. Pirie. "We are on the threshold of a new era of modern greenkeeping. The man of tomorrow must know greenkeeping in theory and practice in order to be rightly recognized as one of the future greenkeepers."

Appreciation of the address was voiced by members present who declared that it was one of the best of the season.