

Around the Office Desk

THANKS TO MACGREGOR

LET'S give a rising vote of thanks to John MacGregor for furnishing us his interesting and instructive monthly Almanac through 1928. John is not sending the Almanac through for 1929 because there is more or less repetition in the daily work of the greenkeeper.

"I would like to see something in the GREENKEEPER" writes MacGregor "which would stir up interest among the greenkeepers. I would like to start something and for a start put this question up to the greenkeepers."

"What has been your experience with Arsenate of Lead? Has it improved your turf, destroyed weeds, worms, grubs, and in what quantities did you use it per 1000 square feet? At what intervals and how often during a season do you feel it is beneficial or otherwise? This is a subject which is being discussed a great deal and your experience will be beneficial to all. Answer to the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER."

We might say for John's benefit that we sent out a questionnaire on Arsenate of Lead and have a number of interesting replies and we will take excerpts from them together with the new answers which come in and publish a story on Arsenate of Lead in the Big February Convention Number. See that your answers are in the Editor's hands by January 12.

BRITISH GRASSES

SPEAKING of the February Convention we have another treat in store for our readers; an article by Martin Sutton of the Royal Seed Establishment of Reading, England, entitled "Notes on British Grasses."

The Sutton family are probably the world's most famous seedsmen and his splendid article on British grasses is most interesting and instructive.

Writing to us under date of November 22nd, Mr. Sutton says,

"I have examined and congratulate you upon the admirable 'get-up' of your important paper, the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER; this I feel sure, must be proving a very valuable publication in the U. S. A."

STOLONS VS. SEED

WE HAVE another interesting story from E. S. Garner of the Rhode Island State Agriculture Experiment Station for the February Convention number.

"Stolons versus Seed for the Greens."

This is a subject where there is a nation-wide difference of opinion, but Mr. Garner has tackled it without fear or favor and his article is going to set everybody to thinking.

Mr. Garner is not a pussyfoot writer and what he says is straight-forward and to the point. We predict that this article will cause more argument than any which has been published in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER for some time.

AGAINST MUSHROOM SOIL

HOW many of you greenkeepers are using mushroom soil on your putting greens? If so have you observed any brown patch tendencies?

We received a letter from J. E. Cannaday of Sedalia, Mo. a few days ago in response to a question we asked him about the use of mushroom soil.

"I am convinced that spent hot beds, such as mushroom soil is a very dangerous compound for putting greens. There is in this mixture a large quantity of remnants of organic matter, which have not gone through decomposition as thoroughly as it should be. In other words, there is not enough material in a spent mushroom compost for the growth of such mammoth growths, as mushrooms, but there is an enormous quantity of sustenance for the growth of the microscopic, or even macroscopic fungi."

If you have had practical experience why not let us have it for the benefit of your brother greenkeepers? That's what the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER is for—to exchange ideas and experiences for the betterment of golf.

A GREAT ISSUE

WE HAVE received numerous complimentary letters on the December issue and apparently the boys are doing a lot of serious thinking about soil conditions and brown

patch.

One of these from James A. Smith, soil expert of London, Ohio about covers the entire situation.

"This number is all 'meat'," writes Mr. Smith. "The thinking greenkeeper who has been doing research work and realized it, has never before felt at liberty to make public his findings. A careful check of this number shows the results of your efforts. Only a few are actually represented but their offerings are all fundamentally sound. This number, were all points made, fully carried out and properly correlated, would make a text book."

"E. S. Garner, in this publication, feels perfectly free to state an important fact regarding bent grasses corroborated by Dr. Hubbard in a subsequent article."

Mustard Greens, Carrots Sprout On Golf Green

SAVANNAH, Ga., Nov. 20.—(AP)—For days and days gangs of men worked on greens at the City Golf club, plowing, planting and rolling the ground. Savannah golfers would have fine putting greens.

Two days ago things began to come up. Seven greens must be made over because officials at the golf club decided Savannah golfers could not putt on the crop of mustard greens and carrots.

The packages from which the seed came were labeled grass seed.

CHEAP SEED IS EXPENSIVE

The above newspaper clipping was sent to us by Hugh C. Moore, greenkeeper at Brunswick, Ga. "This is the result of cheap seed," writes Moore, "and poor greenkeeping. It was supposed to be Italian Rye which is a large seed easily identified."

"There can never be a worse mixed-up affair than the naming of our bent grasses. I am interested in the marketing of a bent grass which while purchased with a pedigree will if possible be deprived of a father and mother by competitors. I still think as much as ever of the child for what it is, without a family tree. Let Mr. Garner further debunk this matter.

"Mr. Cannaday says he 'does not know' but I find him perfectly clear, fundamentally, on brown patch. He covers fungus growth from a different angle than is common, under glass, but his 'set up' as he calls it is in perfect agreement with the only theories that, I believe, can be advanced.

"Fred Burkhardt has the prize article of the month. He has handled a subject which has heretofore been considered technical in such a simple way that it is predigested and certainly ready to eat. Fred's article is the result of gathered information proven by years of experience and told only as it could be told by one who was sure of his ground. To get such clear thinking from even one greenkeeper is worth to the golfing world all your publications have cost.

"And Dr. Hubbard's letter to Mr. Morley. If I am permitted to come to Buffalo in February, I have planned my talk so as to go back as many million years as my conscience will permit and show that our earth we are working today is the same earth of 100 years ago but probably not quite so good. I should prove substantially that Dr. Hubbard, with 'no training for scientific observations in actual practice, only a taste for analytical deductions of its laws,' has in his article stated a fundamental law for the correction of any soil.

"So it goes. No one gets more kick out of the GREENKEEPER than do I. Ninety per cent of the articles are 'thinking straight' needing only boiling down to one or two simple facts to which all can easily subscribe."

ANOTHER STORY

WE HAVE another splendid story for the February number. The title is, "Golf Course Maintenance" and the author is Grange Alves, pro-greenkeeper of the Acacia Country Club, Cleveland, Ohio.

Alves comes from an old time Scotch golfing family and was born and brought up to his trade. He has long been a student of golf course construction and maintenance and in his story he brings up some very vital questions which are puzzling greenkeepers today in all parts of the country.

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FANCY WORK

THE secretary of the Wives of National Greenkeepers, Mrs. Wm. Smith, Red Run Golf Club, Royal Oak, Mich., requests us to insert a notice as follows:

"Mrs. Varn Hagen, president of the Wives association wishes to inform all of the ladies that there will be a stall of fancy work at the next Convention in February and she would like all the members to donate something. The proceeds will go to the treasury of the Wives of National Greenkeepers. Donations should be sent either to Mrs. Varn Hagen, Lock Box 67, Redford, Detroit, Mich., or to the secretary not later than the end of January."

KENTUCKY SPEAKS

"I WANT to thank you for sending me the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER. I personally think it is a grand paper. It is helpful to a man in my profession, as a greenkeeper. It has useful items in it on how to take care of greens and other things too numerous to mention.

"We have a very nice 9-hole course at Stearns, Kentucky, situated about one hundred and ninety-two miles south of Cincinnati, Ohio, on Queen & Crescent R. R. We have nine bent greens now, having completed four new ones this fall. They are coming along nicely at present and if nothing happens we will be playing on them by spring."

(Signed) John W. Wallace
Box 15
Stearns, Kentucky

A UNIQUE PERSON

HERE'S a man who apparently has never seen the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, or heard of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America. His name is Guy M. Peters and he writes a story in the November number of the Olympian, a magazine published by the Olympia Fields Country Club of Chicago. He starts his story as follows:

"What little we know about growing and treating putting green and fairway grasses we have learned from the Green Section of the U. S. Golf Association."

It seems to me that some of us visited Olympia Fields during the Open Championship and met a Mr. Fred Kruger, greenkeeper, who seemed to know quite a little bit about growing grass, having four 18-hole courses to take care of. Mr. Kruger is a Charter member of the National Association of the Greenkeepers of America, a subscriber to this magazine, and as far as we know has about the biggest and most important greenkeeping job in the United States.

MORLEY REVIEWS YEAR'S PROGRESS

(Continued from page 17)

Without doubt he will find a way for you to be with us, and I say this because of my wide acquaintance with chairmen of Green committees. They know better than most other officials of golf clubs how much it means to the club to place within reach of the greenkeeper the opportunity he needs to advance himself in his profession. Show him this article and don't forget to get the magazine back.