

# Convention Story Contest

*E. B. Dearie, Jr., 3rd Prize; Bob Farmer and L. M. Evans, Tied for 4th Prize*

THE progress of greenkeeping was well demonstrated at the recent Louisville convention which was both inspiring and educational. To think that our organization has been able to advance so far since the Chicago convention four years ago is very gratifying.

The 500 greenkeepers, who attended the last convention, certainly were well repaid and, if they will only do their duty and tell their associates the real value of it, certainly every greenkeeper in America should attend the next convention.

Our conventions are becoming more worth while every year. The time is past when going to one of our conventions was merely a lark. From the educational standpoint alone it is evident that greenkeepers, who desire to keep in touch with the rapid strides being made in their profession, cannot afford to neglect these splendid opportunities.

## Convention is Good Investment

WHILE the expense of attending conventions sometimes seems high, it is certainly a very good investment. Would it not be a good idea for all greenkeepers to set aside a small percentage of each pay check towards their expense funds?

The development of maintenance equipment was illustrated at the golf show and the exhibit of tractors, spraying machines, compost mixers, sprinklers and all kinds of apparatus was very complete. It indicates that many inventive minds are co-operating in attempting to assist greenkeepers.

The contest for the making of the best model greens, which was won by both Joe Valentine of Philadelphia and Charlie Erickson of Min-



EDWARD B. DEARIE, JR.

neapolis, was one of the interesting features. The models, which had been artistically constructed, showed the desirability of imagination.

Kentucky hospitality proved that no mistake had been made in selecting Louisville as the convention city for 1930. The formal address of welcome in behalf of the mayor was not nearly as impressive as his informal speech.

The banquet, of course, was the foremost social event. President Morley was honored by being commissioned a Kentucky colonel. The after-dinner speeches were quite to the point and the entertainment program had been well chosen. The harp selections by the seven sisters were very pleasing.

## Educational Program Interesting

THE educational program was one of general interest. George M. McClure of Columbus was an ideal chairman and kept things moving. The speakers were not only fully informed on their subjects but they had prepared self-explanatory charts which interpreted their remarks in terms of practical findings. That men of such high calibre should share greenkeeping interests seems a very hopeful sign for the future of greenkeeping.

The opening speech was very vital. Lewis M. Evans of Philadelphia took as his topic "The Fraternal Side of Greenkeeping". His attitude favoring cooperation and the avoidance of jealousy in the greenkeeping profession is one which can be highly endorsed. Undoubtedly the future of greenkeepers, both individually and collectively, depends upon high standards of ethics.

Perhaps the principal speaker of the conven-

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tion was Prof. L. S. Dickinson of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, who made two very important addresses. Explanation of relative seed values by Prof. Dickinson was very informative. He made a point of emphasizing the economy of the best seed.

The control of brown patch is one of the bewildering problems of greenkeeping. Prof. Dickinson's lecture on this subject was worthy of the most serious consideration. The experiments by him into the practical side of this problem during the past five years seem about to bear fruit. The definite relationship between temperature and brown patch no longer can be ignored. Recommendations regarding the poling of the greens as a preventive doubtless will save many clubs large sums in the future.

**Sprague Explains Fertilizers**

**E**XPERIMENTS at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment station with twelve types of fertilizers were explained very interestingly by Dr. Howard B. Sprague. His report of comparative results was very illuminating.

It seems to indicate that the acidity or alkalinity of the soil does not affect weed growth.

A message from Canada was delivered by W. J. Sansom of Toronto who suggested the advisability of paying more attention to the cultivation of the fairways.

The activities of the Green section as explained by Dr. John Monteith of the United States Golf Association seem to indicate that many more helpful suggestions are to be expected in the near future. It is a shame that more funds are not available for this fine work.

The relationship between nitrogen, phosphorous and potash, the three plant food elements, was explained by A. E. Grantham of Richmond very clearly. His opinion that best results in fertilizing are likely to be realized when applied while the plant is dormant should be seriously considered.

When O. J. Noer of the University of Wisconsin stated that competition between clubs has increased the greenkeepers' responsibilities, he performed a real service to our organization. It is high time that all greenkeepers should be awake to these conditions.

The importance of adequate drainage is realized fully by all greenkeepers. The talk by Wendell P. Miller of Columbus on this topic bristled with technical facts which evidently had been gained through practical experience.

Interesting talks were made by W. O. Hollister of Kent, Ohio, on care and fertilization of trees and by James A. Smith of London, Ohio, on the "area method" of making compost.

**Morley's Re-election Popular**

**T**HE unanimous re-election of John Morley of Youngstown, Ohio, to the presidency for the fourth time was highly satisfactory. The officers of the organization are leading it to the front very rapidly and their re-election seems a sign of wisdom. While the passing of John MacNamara is to be regretted, the election of Fred A. Burkhardt as treasurer was very timely.

The success of the Louisville convention—and it most certainly was a splendid success—brought credit to the untiring work of George Davies, Fred A. Burkhardt and others who made it possible. It is only fitting that Joe

Williamson and George Sargent should be given every cooperation in putting over the next convention.

The program of the last convention was so generally satisfactory that it is impossible to criticize. It might be suggested that various greenkeepers throughout the country be asked immediately to concentrate their individual attention upon separate problems so as to be able to present their findings at the next convention. Perhaps short debates on important subjects would be of general interest.

The enthusiasm generated at these conventions is very helpful. The door is being opened to intelligent greenkeeping and it is impossible to ignore the march of progress.

### Louisville Golf Show and Convention

By BOB FARMER



THE Fourth Annual Convention of the National Greenkeepers of America was held in Louisville, Kentucky. It would hardly be fair to speak of such a meeting without giving a word of praise to the choice of location. Louisville is centrally located and affords many conveniences for any convention held

in February. The climatic conditions were excellent with the exception of two days of rain. Birds were singing and the grass was getting greener each day. Sight-seeing trips were made possible, due to the fact that the schedules for the educational programs were limited to the afternoons, which left the mornings free.

The outstanding feature of the convention was the display of equipment. Anything that is "bigger and better" demands attention. The satisfied smile that seemed to crop out upon all the faces of the equipment dealers was self explanatory of the appreciation of the efforts of the Show Committee.

Jefferson County Armory had plenty of floor space for a unified display of this kind. It was closely situated to the Kentucky Hotel which was another ideal factor. The rectangular arrangement of the equipment booths

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