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An Editorial

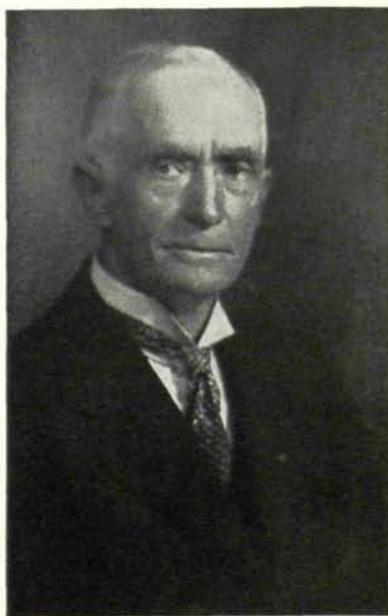
By COLONEL JOHN MORLEY, *Greenkeeper*
Youngstown Country Club.

DURING the past few weeks I have received a number of letters from several of our leading greenkeepers relative to the advisability of changing the name of our profession from greenkeeper to that of superintendent of golf courses.

It is a physical impossibility to express my views fully in answer to their requests, so I am taking this opportunity of expressing my views through the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, and in so doing I wish it distinctly understood that they are given as an individual and not as an official of our association.

I fully realize that the sentiment about changing the name is practically universal, yet I feel that my views may be favored by a minority of our calling.

While I am in favor of changing the title of greenkeeper to a more appropriate scientific word, I am not in favor of calling ourselves superintendents. It may be true that the word "superintendent" appears to some to be more dignified than the word greenkeeper, yet I am of the opinion that if the word superintendent becomes universally adopted we



COLONEL JOHN MORLEY

As the dean of greenkeepers, no one is better qualified than the Author of this editorial to speak on the subject which he has so ably covered. To him greenkeeping is a profession, and he inherits a love for it. The work he has done to help his fellow-greenkeepers forms a noteworthy record.

may lose the chief characteristic of our profession. Then we can naturally be called superintendent and nothing more.

Let us not forget that an experienced greenkeeper should be well versed in botany, plant pathology and entomology. The word botany relates to the study of the life and growth of plant life; pathology, diseases of plants and the means of control; entomology, deals with insect enemies and their remedies.

Here we have three professions which we should have some knowledge of. You will find very few people who understand what a

botanist, pathologist or entomologist is. All of the men engaged in these different lines of occupations are known as scientists. You do not find them wanting to change the names of their profession.

If we want a more appropriate name which will sound more dignified, don't you think that it would be a good idea to have the officials of the United States Golf Association and the Royal Canadian Golf Association appoint a committee to meet with a committee

of experienced greenkeepers and adopt a more suitable name, which if adopted would be universally acknowledged.

We all know that we are expected to do many things outside of science, that we must ably manage men under our employ, that we must have a fair knowledge of machinery, and other items too numerous to mention. Yet, one cannot be master of them all, for no one man is endowed with all that knowledge.

If we intend to hold our positions with our respective clubs we must concentrate more on raising suitable turf which cannot be accomplished except along scientific lines. This work demands that we must know our soils, grasses and fertilizers. We must know about plant life in general and the environments.

If a man is an experienced greenkeeper we usually find him to be a good employer of labor. He will usually employ men suitable to the various callings which he is called upon to oversee.

Therefore let us be careful before we make a change in name. If you cannot agree with my views to keep or obtain a more scientific name for our profession, let me ask this question, why go halfway and call ourselves superintendents. Why not go all the way and call ourselves golf course managers. There need be no confusion, for the gentleman who has charge of a clubhouse is known as club manager. We can, without conflict, be known as golf course managers. To call one a manager and the other a superintendent will show, so far as title is concerned, that one position is inferior to the other.

We do not have to go back many years to remember that a person having charge of a golf clubhouse had three titles, namely: steward, superintendent and manager. The Club Managers' Association is to be highly commended for abolishing the titles of steward

and superintendent and making it possible to call all with the title of club managers.

As I see it we are attempting to do what the club managers have abolished. If we adopt the word superintendent we will still be known as greenkeepers, pro-greenkeepers and superintendents, and a number like myself will be known as golf course managers.

Having had fifteen years' experience as manager of country clubs and seventeen years in greenkeeping, making a total of thirty-two years of service in country clubs, convinces me that while club managers and greenkeepers are far apart in their calling, yet I am of the opinion that the position of greenkeeping is just as important to the general welfare of a golf club as the club manager.

Let me endeavor, for example, to quote one club. I might quote several for illustration, but we will take the Chicago Golf Club, located at Wheaton, Illinois, because its greenkeeper is John MacGregor and he is probably known by all greenkeepers in America. The Chicago Golf Club is a wealthy and exclusive club. It demands the best in golf maintenance and service. John MacGregor more than keeps step with the times. He gets ahead of the times. He is of an inventive mind. He aims to give the best of service in order to give more than is demanded. He cuts his fairways at night with the aid of headlights on the tractor. Bobby Jones, while playing over his course during a recent international tournament, publically stated that the Chicago Golf Club Course was the best conditioned course that he had ever played on.

I do not know the manager of this club, yet I am convinced he must be a good manager and gives good service. In my judgment both of these men are equal in talent, although along different lines. Do you think it would be just and right to create a title making John

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Morley Editorial

(Concluded from page 6)

MacGregor an inferior official of his club. He should be given the same consideration as the manager of the clubhouse, no more and no less. Then again how many pro-greenkeepers want to be humiliated by being called superintendents?

In conclusion, I have tried to explain my views with a purpose of keeping an open mind, and if you cannot agree with me let me ask you to take a little time and express your views through the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER. If you have read this article pertaining to the changing our title, you can be sure others will read what you have to say. Don't forget that an exchange of views is always helpful.

A New Worm Killer

Greenkeepers throughout the country are boosting a new ally in their battle with worms and brown patch. Diworma, a product of the C. B. Dolge Company, of Westport, Conn., is meeting with widespread approval in many of the leading country clubs.

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