

Canadian News

By J. H. EVANS, *Golf Editor*

Toronto Globe



WM. J. SANSON

Who tells of his impressions of the Greenkeepers' Convention at New York.

ADDRESSING his associates during their February meeting in Toronto, President W. J. Sansom, of the Ontario Greenkeepers' association highly commended the efforts of officials of the National Greenkeepers' association who were responsible for the success of the recent convention of the National association, which was held in Hotel Pennsylvania, New York city. More than thirty course superintendents and greenkeepers attended the monthly meeting of the Ontario association.

Mr. Sansom stated that in spite of conditions which might be expected to detract to some extent from the proportions of the convention and the extent and scope of the show, the convention and the show were beyond expectations. Fred Burkardt, chairman of the show

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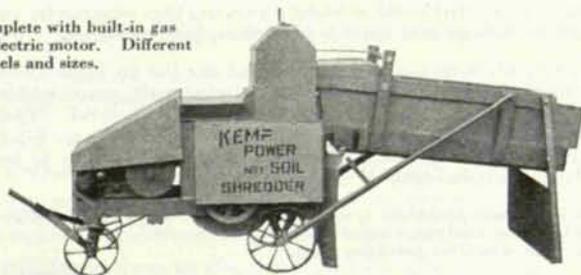
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committee, was commended for the wonderful display of equipment and the arrangements made for the comfort of visiting delegates.

"Col. John Morley, our very excellent president, must be congratulated on the selection of speakers," said Mr. Sansom. "The educational program was interesting and instructive. The conference was well attended by visitors. Every little detail was thought of and as a consequence the maximum of benefit was secured from the addresses which comprised the well-balanced program arranged by Mr. Morley with greenkeepers and college professors as speakers.

Robert Hayes and John Anderson must be complimented for the splendid banquet and entertainment which they arranged. It is with considerable regret that I comment on the absence of Canadians. However, before another convention is held all Canadian members may be able to derive the benefits which come from attending the annual convention."

After touching on the convention, Mr. Sansom dealt with turf scalds, a condition observed to a great extent last year which still interests greenkeepers in Canada. He regarded the subject as important. He pointed out that it must not be confused with brown patch which was a turf disease caused by a specific growth which penetrates and kills the leaf of grasses.

"Because we see brown spots on putting surface is no reason why we should jump to the conclusion that we have brown patch," he said. "I have observed that scald usually appears in irregular outline of discolored patches, worst in the centre of the patch and less severe toward the outer edges. At the first, the grass has a purplish or blueish tinge with the leaf rolled and shrivelled as though suffering from the lack of water. It develops rapidly, the grass turning brown, quite often leaving the ground bare.

"The scald always commences with excessive heat and continues until there is a spell of cold weather before it can be checked," he continued. "We are all fully aware of the prolonged excessive heat and humidity of the past summer with the consequences. The use of fungicide seems to be of very little use in checking or controlling scald. My conclusion is that scald comes from the excessive use of fertilizer, organic and inorganic. Unfavorable weather conditions have a bearing in the treatment of scald.

"For instance when the plant does not respond to the fertilizer on account of conditions, it may be due to the fact that the fertilizer when applied in the spring decomposes very slowly and is not immediately assimilated by the plant. A hot, humid spell may follow, broken by a thunderstorm, or courses may be heavily watered. The process of decomposition goes on so rapidly that too much nitrogen is provided for the plant to assimilate with the result that the grass becomes soft and succulent, easily injured during unfavorable weather."

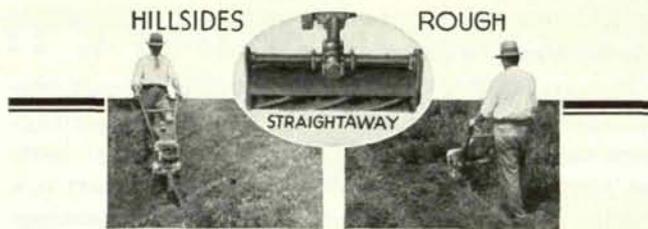
Mr. Sansom urged his colleagues to avoid the use of highly concentrated fertilizer during the summer

months. Grass, he stated, should not be fed unless there was definite need for it and especially if the purpose of the feeding was to produce and develop rich color. It did seem that the turf was more healthy when it did not have the bright green color brought about by excessive nitrogen.

"I think we will all agree that grasses are more or less dormant in the months of July and August," he said. "If this is so, I think we will also agree that Nature should not be interfered with too much. If the plant does not respond to a normal application, the chance is that it will never do so. We should be careful and limit the use of a highly soluble fertilizer, since I believe that by adding an additional amount we are courting disaster.

"By this I do not mean that fertilizer in itself is harmful. It is rather the excessive use which creates the damage. How often do we hear that a club with very little to spend gets by without the worries of scald, brown patch or disease by keeping the soil in a proper chemical condition and by not allowing fertilizer to accumulate in the soil."

Mr. Sansom said that the use of a little lime either in the spring or fall would prove beneficial in reducing and overcoming scald. He thought that 20-pounds of hydrated lime per thousand square feet would break down the fertilizer and put the soil in good physical condition. He felt that excessive watering should be



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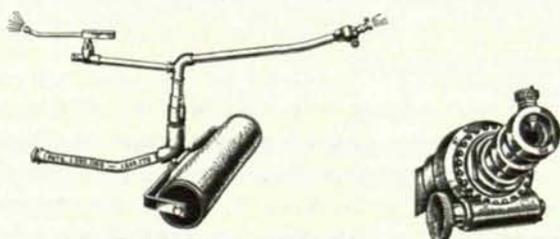
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avoided and if bad drainage was responsible for scalds, it could be adjusted easily by installing proper drainage.

Philadelphia News

By M. E. FARNHAM, Secretary, P. A. G. C. S.

THE annual meeting of the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents, took place on, January 11, 1932, at Seeley's Restaurant, 4748 North Broad Street. Election of officers illustrates the fact that a willing horse is likely to be worked to death. All officers were re-elected. They are as follows:

President, Thos. E. Dougherty, The Springhaven Club, Wallingford, Pa.

Vice-president, Eugene MacFarland, Marble Hall Links, Barren Hill, Pa.

Treasurer, R. C. Lane, Bala Golf Club, Bala, Pa.

Secretary, M. E. Farnham, Philadelphia Country Club, W. Conshohocken, Pa.

On February 8th the second meeting of the year was held at the same place. The attendance at New York, while not all that was hoped for, was very satisfactory. A good as well as profitable time was reported by all. In fact good reports were so universal that a request for