



Morley's Farewell Address

To the Officers, Members and Friends of The National Association of Greenkeepers of America, Greeting:

You will observe in other pages of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER that I have resigned from the Presidency of this association.

Believing that my actions in resigning at the fall meeting of the Board of Directors held at Cleveland, Ohio, may be construed that all is not well within the association, prompts me to state that owing to continual poor health, together with other duties involved upon me, made it imperative to turn the Presidency over to my worthy successor, John MacGregor. And in turning or transferring the burden over to him, John MacGregor being a Scot, to me it was like transplanting a thistle into a beautiful rose.

It is a pleasure to me to state that John MacGregor has my entire support, as well as the united support of the entire Board of Directors; and if we are still to keep on progressing he should and must have the support of every individual member.

While it is a fact that I have for some time hoped to be relieved of my burden as president, like all new organizations it requires time to perfect satisfactory conditions. That time has now arrived, and it should be a delight to all of our members to know that in turning over the responsibilities of the office of President to my successor, I also turned over to him a substantial membership of experienced greenkeepers, and in all our funds a goodly sum of money. We should all feel proud of these facts especially in the midst of the worst financial panic ever known. But we must not rest upon the strength of the association as it exists today. If we are to continue successful we must keep abreast of the times, so that when one member by necessity falls out of line we must secure another to take his place.

Briefly, we are to live a life of consideration for others, so far as compatible with our duty. To do our own thinking, and stand on our own feet, and if we desire to make a greater success of our vocation we must have 100% confidence in our officers as well as ourselves.

It is also a great gratification to me to know that when accepting my resignation after six years of responsibility, toil and care, I should receive without a dissenting vote the honor of President Emeritus and a place on the Board of Directors. It should prove that good work always brings forth good fruit.

The President of any association can never give the best results unless he is supported by a competent Secretary. In the selection of Fred A. Burkhardt, the clerical work of the association is well attended to. Fred A. Burkhardt's estimable daughter, Ida, devotes her entire time to our association work. It was a pleasure to observe the splendid work done by her in keeping the records of the meetings of the Board of Directors held at Cleveland, O.

Time and space forbids me from expressing myself more fully, but I believe that it would be unjust if I did not at this time extend to all who have in any way assisted me during my many terms in office. Especially I do want to express my sincere appreciations to the merchants and manufacturers for their generous cooperation with us in holding each year our Educational Conferences and Golf Shows. They have helped to play an important part both from a publicity and financial standpoint, which also has enabled us to double our efforts in our aims and objects, namely to collect and disseminate practical knowledge of the problems of greenkeeping, with a view to more efficient and economical maintenance of golf courses. We hope and trust that we will again be favored with their good will and cooperation at our coming Conference and Golf Show at Chicago next February.

While at times there have been honest differences of opinion between the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER and your humble servant, yet I am not unmindful of the fact that the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER has played a very important part towards the success and general welfare of our association for which I am very happy to report.

With L. J. Feser, Edward Dearie and John Anderson constituting the committee on the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, there will be greater cooperation with the Editor, Robert E. Power, thus encouraging more of our membership to send in news items of local or general interest. The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER can only be what the members and officials make it.

In conclusion let our motto for the present and future be, "every member get a member." But be sure that they are greenkeepers and that they fully comply with the qualifications laid down in our bylaws, for there is no room in our association for DRONES.

Cordially yours,

JOHN MORLEY,
President Emeritus.