

Sodmen on the Move

Without wishing to appear possessed of a case of "associationitis," *WTT* again lends its editorial support to a fledgling organization. We're referring to the National Sod Producers' Association, which took its first formative steps at last month's Sod Producer Session, conducted during the International Turfgrass Conference and Show (for a report on this session, see page 26).

We were, frankly, impressed by the reasonable attitude surrounding this formative step. With a complete absence of speeches and a minimum of fuss and bother, attending sodmen nominated and selected a committee to study bylaws and constitution for a workable organization. Five producers who form the committee are home-based from California to New Jersey and Florida.

But even more important than this representative geographical spread is the fact that many on the committee have gained previous experience with state or regional sod associations. Committeemen Ben Warren and Wiley Miner have long been active, respectively, in the Mid-America and New Jersey associations. Also auguring well for the group was the appointment of Ohioan George Hammond, who has substantial organizational experience behind him, to serve the committee in an advisory capacity.

It looks to us very much like the sort of go-ahead group that will do what needs to be done, will take the necessary steps to make the National

Sod Producers' Association a reality. Formation comes at a propitious time. The unprecedented expansion of America's sod industry has reached a point where producers are experiencing a growing need to evaluate their own industry and its practices.

Though there is a vast amount of high-quality cultivated sod under production, there are still many unanswered questions and problems, ranging from agronomic considerations to educating the purchasing public in the value and versatility of sod, as well as in its selection and care.

In these and other matters, a national association can serve both industry and public. With a degree of understatement, Rutgers' Dr. Henry Indyk, who chaired the sod session, commented that such a group will be valuable if for no other reason than to sponsor a yearly program for sod producers. We quite agree. And we suspect that a national association can do a great deal more for the industry.

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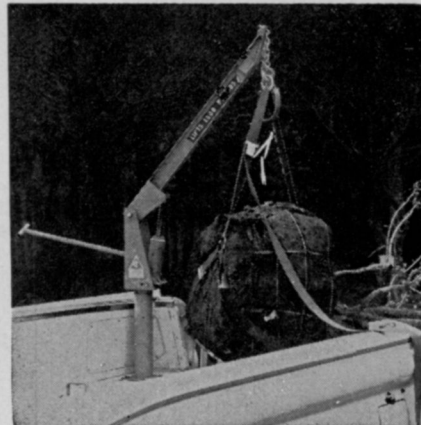
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