

Seedsman Convention Boasts Record Crowd



Speakers for the 20th annual convention included: (l-r) Dr. Herbert Cole, Jr., Penn State University; Ronald Gianettino, Jr., vice president, Keyes-Martin & Co.; and, Dr. Kenyon T. Payne, professor crop and soil sciences, Michigan State University.

Over 80 members and guests constituted a record attendance when the Atlantic Seedsman's Association, combined with the meeting of the

Lawn Seed Division of the American Seed Trade Association met in New York City in November for the 20th annual convention.

The traditional "Round Table," now grown into a horse-shoe due to increased attendance, was well attended. The following morning the Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Seedsman's Association was opened by President Peter Loft.

The first order of business consisted of introduction of guests and the identification of members in attendance. A minute of silence was then observed in memory of Bill Burpee.

Committee reports began with William Herron as chairman of the legislative committee. Seed control officials were very cooperative in reporting any changes in the State Seed Laws. Brief reports were given by Russ Billings, chairman of the farm seed committee, who commented on the world-wide shortage of farm seed; and by John Vaughan, chairman of the garden seed committee, who had more optimistic remarks.

The following officers were elected to serve for the following year: New officers elected for 1973 include: William L. Jeffers, Oliger Seed Co., pres.; William A. Feury, The Terre Co., 1st vice-pres.; George A. Beans, Stanford Seed Co., 2nd vice-pres.; Alvin M. Sweeney, Sweeney Seed Co., secretary; and J. S. Newsom, F. W. Bolgiano & Co., treas. Peter S. Loft of Loft-Pedigreed Seed, Inc. becomes a member

of the executive committee. Two additional members were elected: William Herron, Stanford Seed Co. and George Wagner, Garfield-Williamson & Co. Margaret Herbst of New York remain as executive secretary.

Peter Loft presented observations in the trade during 1972. He particularly mentioned the general trend for more consumption of seed of all kinds and the many more proprietary seeds that will be sold.

John Vaughan, a member of the review committee on grants, then presented the recommendations of his committee for contributions. The Grants were approved to: American Seed Research Foundation, Better Lawn & Turf Institute, National Garden Bureau, Farm Seed Conference and the National Lawn & Garden Week newspaper supplement.

Peter Loft, also chairman of the seed specification committee, reported on an excellent acceptance of the revised specifications and their wide distribution.

Robert A. Russell of J. & L. Adikes reported on the progress of the discussions with regard to seed labeling that were being held with the various seed control officials during the convention. Just before luncheon, the new president, William Jeffers, assumed the chair and presented the past president plaque to Peter Loft.

Dr. Herbert Cole, Jr., professor of plant pathology, Pennsylvania State University, presented the case for chemical seed treatment. He looked

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upon chemical seed treatment as an opportunity rather than a problem. With the use of slides, he illustrated the different turfgrass problems and stressed the need of genetic diversity as one solution to these problems.

The second speaker was Prof. Kenyon T. Payne, dept. of crops and soil science, Michigan State University. Payne gave some aspects of turfgrass needs; he chose to approach his subject in several areas: the grasses themselves; seed and its production and distribution; education; industry and environment.

Ronald Gianettino, vice-president of Keyes, Martin & Co. advertising agency concluded the session with a presentation on the marketing and advertising of seeds, past, present and future.

The next morning conferees heard reports from the West given by Arnie Bonnicksen, Arden Jacklin and Alan Hick before the Lawn Seed Division meeting opened, presided over by chairman John Vaughan.

Robert A. Russell gave a more complete report on the seed labeling discussions with seed control officials. Alan Hick covered the topics that had been brought out in the Planning Committee session.

James Jenks spoke on the highway specifications problems in Virginia and Maryland. Doyle Jacklin reported on the noxious weeds list; as a result, a recommendation was passed to have a committee to look over these various lists.

Arden Jacklin's discussion resulted in a resolution to be sent to the board of directors of A.S.T.A. to get a legal opinion on the protection of Kentucky bluegrasses under the Plant Variety Protection Act and/or the Plant Patent Act. Doyle Jacklin submitted a resolution designed to codify existing seed testing research on varietal and identification information.

The speaker for the Lawn Seed Division was Dr. Roy Nittler, N.Y. Dept. of Seed Investigations, Geneva, New York. He discussed new seed testing techniques and their application of variety differentiation.

Optimum Nitrogen Rates Cited As Major Sod Problem

An Ohio State University agronomist has cited application of optimum rates of nitrogen fertilizer as a major problem facing the sod grower today.

K. R. English says that because sod is used to establish many new turfgrass areas, large sod fields must be carefully managed to produce a top quality crop which can be used in laying a new site. Poorly developed sod will fall apart and establish slowly. Insufficient nitrogen produces a weak, thin turf which allows weeds to move in and take over. Conversely, too heavy nitrogen applications cause excessive top growth and weakened root and rhizome systems.

Speaking before the annual American Society of Agronomy recently, English added that a study conducted at Michigan State University considered several ways to decide how much nitrogen the sod grower should use for efficient sod production.

Ammonium nitrate was applied several times at various rates during the growing season to Merion Kentucky bluegrass grown on an organic soil in Michigan.

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(continued on page 47)

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