



NEWS LETTER

How much easier our work would be if we put forth as much effort trying to improve the quality of it as most of us do trying to find excuses for not properly attending to it.

GEORGE W. BALLINGER

JANUARY

1936

This NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Greenkeepers Club of New England, and sent free to its members and their Green's Chairmen. Subscription price ten cents a copy, or a dollar a year.

GUY C. WEST Editor
312 Mt. Pleasant St., Fall River, Mass.

JAMES McCORMACK .. Business Mgr.
450 William St., Stoneham, Mass.

January, 1936

Vol. 8, No. 1

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of our club was held on January 6th at the Hotel Minerva, Boston, Mass. The following officers and committees were elected for 1936:

President Howard D. Farrant
1st V. Pres. Robert A. Mitchell
2nd V. Pres. T. W. Swanson
3rd V. Pres. John L. Counsell
Secretary Charles W. Parker
Treasurer Frank H. Wilson
Trustee, 3 yrs. James C. Sullivan

Entertainment Committee—

Homer C. Darling
John Latvis
Harold Mosher
Paul Wanberg
Philip Cassidy
Leslie Wildgust

Golf Committee—

Arthur E. Anderson
Paul Hayden
Joseph Oldfield
Thomas Mattus
Wallace Peckham

Auditing Committee—

James Holden
Lloyd Stott

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To the Members of the Greenkeepers Club of New England:

It is customary at this time to review somewhat the events of the past year,

and to give an account of our stewardship.

Your president has endeavored to conduct the affairs of the club to the best of his ability; he has attended all meetings, and also all other joint meetings, conferences, etc. held in New England during the year. He has spoken at four such meetings.

Your secretary will doubtless comment in his report upon the various meetings. I should like to specially recall the first John Shanahan Memorial tournament held at Brae Burn in July. It was very fitting that the first tournament held for the trophy presented by the Greenkeepers Club of New England and the New England section, P. G. A. should be held at Brae Burn. We hope that each succeeding year may continue the popularity of this tournament so that the memory of John Shanahan may ever be with us.

Our membership has shown a slight reduction during the year. This is due in part to the unfortunate financial condition of some of our clubs so that some of our members have been forced to assume other work. We have made no concerted drive for members, and perhaps should not, but let us not be ever satisfied with ourselves. Let us be ever willing to tell other potential members of the value of our club to them. Let us make a real effort to increase our membership and to provide more activities for our members.

For the past year, all of the activities of our club have been conducted by about twenty of our members. It would be a fine thing for our club if more of our members would assume more of its responsibilities.

With no apologies made nor needed for the activities of our club over its nearly twelve years of existence, let us gird ourselves anew to push ahead to greater endeavors, to higher responsibilities. We see on all sides activities in other organizations. Let us keep step. As we realize that a brother organization is attempting to teach greenkeeping to its members so that they may be of more value to their clubs, let us analyze the possibilities of teaching club house management and professional duties to our members—to the end that our members may be of greater value to their clubs. Let us not fall back, let us keep step, indeed, let us lead the way!

Our opportunity for research work, to conduct some ourselves, and to cooperate with others who are now conducting experiments, was never greater

than it is at present. Let us forget petty jealousies, and cooperate to our utmost with those who have shown us so often that they desire our cooperation.

It has been an honor for me to have been your president these last two years, and I have been happy in your cooperation with me. If I were to have one wish as a greenkeeper, for all greenkeepers, it would be that "any inferiority complex which may exist in the mind of any greenkeeper today be abolished". Let us work toward that end. Let us keep up the work for which this club was started, and for which it has labored during its existence.

In closing, I wish to express my best wishes to our incoming president for a very successful administration, and to pledge my support to him for the good of our club.

Respectfully submitted,

GUY C. WEST, President.

January 6, 1936.

GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

At this time I wish to urge all of our members to make every effort to be present at our meetings. Special features have been planned for the next two meetings in particular, and every member should avail himself of the right of his membership and gain from the programs presented. By attending our meetings and taking part in the discussion, you are bound to benefit both yourself and your fellow member.

HOWARD D. FARRANT, Pres.

N. A. G. A. ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Tenth Annual Greenkeepers Convention and Golf Show will be held at The Carter Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio, February 4th to 7th, 1936.

Cleveland is within an overnights run from most any city in the east and who wouldn't spend this little time for the value received in return.

First you will get an educational program lasting three days which Mr. Burkhardt, our President, promises that you will have to go a long way to sur-

pass, then you will have the Exhibitors Show that will be open for four days which will give you the latest data on golf course equipment for the benefit of your particular course along with the many disease control and fertilizers. The Carter Hotel is centrally located within walking distance of all depots and bus stations, rooms ranging from \$2.50 and up including ice water, shower, and bath.

We again are making reservations for reduced railroad fares whereby providing we have 100 validated certificates at the close of the Convention you will receive one third fare on your return trip. So don't forget to ask your ticket agent for a convention certificate as you are purchasing your ticket and turn this certificate in at the registration desk at the Show to be validated as you will not get reduced fare unless you have a certificate.

Get the moth balls out of your grips and I'll be seeing you in Cleveland.

F. W. ERMER, Chairman,
Show Committee.

At an important meeting of the Board of Directors held at Brae Burn on January 13th, James McCormack of Unicorn was appointed Business Manager of the NEWSLETTER.

Ort Wendell of Locust Valley is in St. Petersburg, Fla. for the Winter. Others who are going South this Winter include Tom Mattus for January and February, and Joe Oldfield for a six weeks trip soon.

Dues are now payable to Frank H. Wilson, Treasurer, Charles River Country Club, Newton Centre, Mass.

From an announcement of the Golf Course Management Short Course, Jan. 6th to March 6th, at the Michigan State College.

We want to remind the presidents, green chairmen, directors, and club members of the complexity of problems which the greenkeeper must be able to solve in the ordinary daily routine. The greenkeeper must be a soil and fertilizer expert, a plant doctor who can diag-

nose and cure plant diseases, a bug specialist who can identify and control insects which ravage the greens, a mechanical wizard who can keep tractors, mowers, top-dressing mixers, fertilizer distributors, pumps, and electrical equipment in running order, a plumber who can keep the showers working, a bookkeeper to keep accounts, a floriculturist to keep the flower gardens around the course looking beautiful, a tree surgeon to be able to prune and care for shade trees, a landscape architect to be able to properly beautify the course, a zoologist to be able to eradicate animals which are pests around the course and to attract birds which are not only beautiful but also help keep down the insect pest, and a grass expert to know which kind of grasses are most suitable for every purpose. Golf Clubs of Michigan will find the small investment needed to send their greenkeeper will pay them large dividends in the increased efficiency and capacity of the man, which will reflect itself in better greens, fairways, and roughs. Individuals who attend the course will find the answers to many of their problems, a satisfying confidence in their ability to meet problems which arise, and a firm foundation for personal advancement. Your club will appreciate and respect your opinions much more when they are backed by sound, scientific, and technical knowledge.

The tenth annual Golf Course Maintenance Conference and Exhibition will be held at the Massachusetts State College, March 13, 14, 15, in connection with the third Outdoors Recreational Conference.

The Golf Conference was started as a finale of the first Winter School for Greenskeepers. The Massachusetts State College was the first institution in the country to offer instruction to Greenskeepers and Growers of fine turf the first course being offered in 1927. Since that time other colleges have presented shorter courses of a similar nature. The M. S. C. school is under the direction of Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson, the founder, and is of ten weeks duration. Graduates of the course are to be found in responsible positions on many golf courses throughout the country and in Canada.

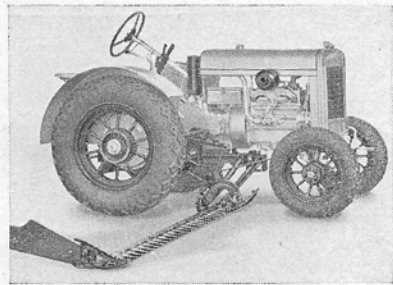
Last year five thousand persons attended the conference. This year the program is to be stronger and better.

A new feature will be the first annual dinner of the golf section which will be held Saturday evening at the Lord Jeffrey Inn. This promises to be an unusual event in many respects. Immediately following the dinner, the Roister Doisters, the college dramatic society, will present in costume a series of colorful dramatic skits depicting the history of golf. This program is being compiled from authentic data by Professor Frank Prentice Rand, playwright and Head of the English department of the college.

Arrangements are being made for the usual number of prominent speakers to appear on the program. There will be more fifteen minute papers followed by discussion than last year and the longer talks will be fewer but of very high caliber.

Opening the conference, Friday morning's program will begin at ten-thirty and close at four-thirty after which there will be ample opportunity to visit the exhibition hall. In the evening there will be important discussions on issues of common interest. Saturday's program will start at ten in the morning and end at four-thirty followed by a visit to the exhibition hall

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and the banquet at the Lord Jeffrey Inn in the evening. Sunday the morning session will open at eleven and the conference will end with an exceptional speaker at two o'clock. The exhibition will remain open until six p. m.

The exhibition which has become a prominent feature of the year will be held in the Physical Education Baseball Cage which is 178 feet by 148 feet, and is exceptionally well lighted and ventilated. All exhibitors are invited and arrange their exhibits to comply with the high educational standards of the conference. All lines of equipment for playing and maintenance are to be exhibited as well as equipment and demonstrations from the other sections of the conference.

The Recreational conference is divided into four sections, Golf and Parks, Hunting and Fishing, Sports and Games, not including baseball, football and similar games, Nature and Forestry. Each section will present programs and exhibitions of greatest value and interest to their proponents. Combining with the Golf section will be the New England Hotelmen and Clubmanagers and the New England Park Superintendents Association. In the exhibition hall there will be a daily program of exhibitions of skill in the various recreational activities.

The complete program should be ready by February first and a copy will be sent to any one desiring it. Send your request to Professor L. S. Dickinson, Massachusetts State College, Amherst, Mass.

The Rhode Island Greenkeepers Association met at the Narragansett Hotel, Providence, on January 13th. A talk by Prof. J. B. Smith of the Rhode Island State College on "Soil Reaction and the Availability of Plant Nutrients" featured the program.

Prof. Smith spoke from a large chart devised by Dr. N. A. Pettinger of Va. on the relation between soil acidity and the abundance of the fertilizer elements the plant may absorb. Nutrients that were discussed included the basic elements, Calcium, Magnesium, and Potash; Nitrate, Ammonia, Nitrogen; Phosphorus, Aluminum, iron, and Manganese.

Calcium was shown to be deficient below pH 5.0 because of loss from previous leaching, while magnesium becomes deficient at approximately pH 4.5.

Potash remained almost uniformly available throughout the usual range in soil acidity but becomes rapidly less as alkalinity increases. Calcium, normally the most abundant element above pH 7.0 interferes with the absorption of potassium and magnesium in the alkaline range.

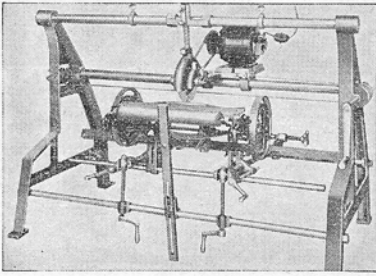
Nitrate nitrogen, although utilized better at acid than at neutral and alkaline reactions, is usually present in smaller quantities in soils more acid than pH 5.5 and may become deficient at 4.5 and below. Although ammonia nitrogen was not drawn on the chart it was pointed out as being absorbed and used to best advantage near the neutral point. The less favorable use of ammonia nitrogen by plants in the more acid soils may in part account for some of the weed control usually obtained. This does not indicate that ammonia nitrogen should be used only on the neutral soils by any means.

The soluble supply of aluminum and iron rapidly increases through the range from pH 5.0 to pH 4.0, with the result that weeds may be injured by the aluminum and that insoluble phosphorus compounds are formed. In a similar way the phosphorus applied to the surface is "fixed" in the upper layer of soil and moves down very slowly.

Manganese sulphate, applied to beets, spinach, corn, and other plants, growing on a neutral soil resulting from overliming, gave relief from a deficiency of the element. On the other hand this element may be toxic in very acid soils. This is reflected in the solubility shown on the chart.

The discussion centered on phosphorus and liming. Limestone also moves down through the soil slowly. The stimulation of the rotting process induced by an application of lime has been found to be helpful in getting greens moistened uniformly although only a small proportion of the total acidity had been neutralized. In other words since grasses of the putting green tolerate acidity and aluminum, it is only desirable to prevent an increase in the soil acidity which can be accomplished by the application of limestone equal in weight to the sulphate of ammonia which was applied during the current season. Probably the application of limestone in the late autumn will interfere with play less and reach a greater depth in the soil than the same applied in the spring.

H. F. A. NORTH, Secretary.



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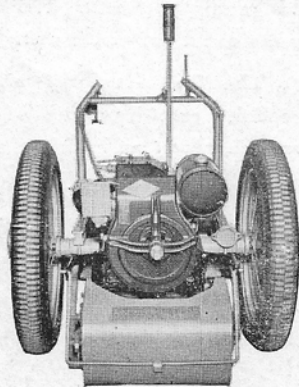
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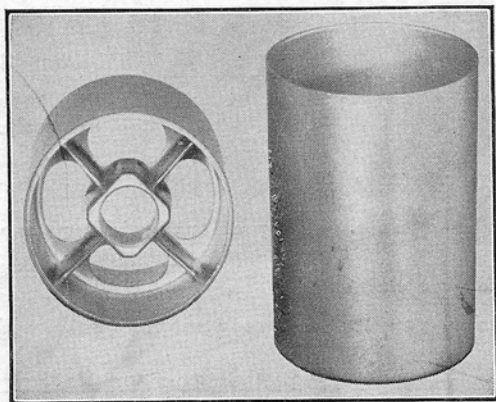


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